

I Love My Bible!

Lesson 4: God's Word Is FIRE

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:

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 Jeremiah 20 and 38. Pray for anointing.

Items Needed: "God's Word Is Fire" PowerPoint show and computer (or various pictures of fire), Bible, "Fire" visual.

Go through the "God's Word Is Fire" PowerPoint show, discussing the pictures and questions and then skip down to the SUMMARY/ PRAYER part of this lesson.

OR

Show students the pictures of fire and discuss the following questions.

- **What are some ways fire is helpful?** (*it gives us light, helps us celebrate, keeps us warm, looks beautiful when contained [as in a fireplace], burns away old growth to make room for new, cooks our food, can be a unifying symbol [as in the Olympic Torch], helps us make useful things from metal, etc.—SLIDES 22-23*)
- **What are some ways fire is NOT helpful?** (*it can spread quickly and burn down entire fields and forests and destroy all kinds of things, including homes and lives—SLIDES 24-25*)
- **How is God's Word like fire?** (*it brings light into our lives [shows us right from wrong], warms our hearts [brings joy], adds beauty [beautiful things to think on], can bring comfort but can also make us uncomfortable when we have sinned, gets rid of the bad things in our lives so that new good things can grow, spreads quickly when we share it with others—SLIDES 26-27*)

The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah was persecuted for speaking God's Word. Among other things, he was beaten, put in stocks, and thrown into a dungeon (a muddy pit). Listen to what he said:

Read Jeremiah 20:9 from your Bible.

SUMMARY/PRAYER

Even though Jeremiah felt discouraged at times, and thought he would just give up talking about God's Word, he could not! God's Word was like a fire inside of him!!

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

Let's pray right now that God's Word will burn in our hearts—getting rid of the bad things, making the good things better. And let's pray that we will never stop telling others about the things we have learned from God's Word.

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)
- **What are the divisions of the Old Testament?** (Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy)
- **How many Old Testament books of Prophecy are there?** (17)

The longer books of Prophecy are called the "Major Prophets." These books are not more important than the other books of Prophecy, just longer. The Major Prophets are: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations (written by Jeremiah), Ezekiel, and Daniel.

Let's say those five books together several times: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Repeat several times.

- **During the Bible Lesson today we talked about one of the Major Prophets. Which one?** (*Jeremiah*)

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

Find the book of Jeremiah (a little past the center of the Bible). Find chapter 20, verse 9. Have a student read Jeremiah 20:9 to the class.

Jeremiah couldn't stop talking about God's Word! He said it was like a fire inside of him!! Now turn three chapters over to Jeremiah chapter 23, verse 29. Have a student read Jeremiah 23:29 to the class.

God Himself called His Word a fire—a powerful force!

- **What is the first division of the Old Testament?** (*the Law*)
- **What are the books of the Law?** (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*)

Let's say those five books together several times: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Repeat several times.

Turn towards the front of the Bible and find the book of Deuteronomy. Find chapter 5. We're going to read verses 22-24. Have a student or students read Deuteronomy 5:22-24 to the class.

God spoke out of the fire, and He wrote His words on two tables (tablets) of stone.

- **What were those words on the tables of stone?** (*the Ten Commandments*)

God's Word is powerful, like a fire!

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

Supplies: "Jeremiah 20:9—Fire" coloring pages
Red, yellow, and orange tissue paper cut into small flame-like pieces
Glue sticks
Crayons
Hot Cheetos, red hots or other hot treats
Drinks—juice pouches or small water bottles (something that won't spill easily)
Plates or bowls and napkins

BEFORE CLASS:

Complete a sample page to show the kids, coloring in the picture and letters and attaching tissue paper flames with glue.

DURING CLASS:

Hand out coloring pages. Remind students to write their names on their pages. Show them your sample and the supplies and have them complete the coloring pages.

While kids are working on their coloring pages, serve Hot Cheetos or other snacks, as well as drinks. Have the kids pray and give thanks for their snacks.

Remind the students:

God's Word is a powerful and burning FIRE!

If time remains, do activities from "LARGE-GROUP MEMORY WORK."