

The Bible Is God's Word



Read:

What is the Bible?

You might say it is a book, and you'd be right. In fact, the Bible is 66 smaller books all put together into one big book. The Bible is divided into two sections: The Old Testament and The New Testament.

The Old Testament begins with the creation of the world. It's full of:

- History – real stories about real people, real places, and real events
- Poetry and proverbs – pieces of wisdom to learn from
- Prophecies – predictions about something that will happen, given to people (called prophets) by God to share with others

The New Testament starts with Jesus' birth. In it we find:

- Actual events, both in Jesus' life and after His death and resurrection
- Letters full of teachings about following Jesus that are important lessons for us still today
- Prophecy about things that haven't happened yet but are part of God's plan for this world

So, yes, the Bible is a book, but it's not just any book...

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

The Bible is God's book, His message especially for us! 2 Timothy 3:16 teaches that all – every bit – of Scripture is inspired by God. This means that God chose people to take the words He gave and record them. Even though people wrote it down, the Bible comes from God and is His word.

Isn't it amazing that God, who made the whole universe, chose to give us a special book from Him?

But why did He give us the Bible?

Well the verse we read helps answer that question. The Bible is very important for us as we follow God.

- It teaches us, corrects us when we make mistakes, and trains us to be more righteous. That means becoming more like the people God wants us to be, doing what is right in His eyes.
- Reading the Bible prepares us to do the work God has for us in this world, serving Him and telling others about Him.
- The Bible also helps us understand God’s plan for the world and learn about how He has worked through time and history to bring about our redemption.
- The Bible is full of answers for our questions too. When we wonder what God wants or what He thinks about something, we can look for the answer in His word!

God wants us to know Him better and to know how He wants us to live. He gave us the Bible as His word, and because it came from Him, we know we can trust what it says.

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Apply: If the Bible is God’s own word and is so important us, what should we do with the Bible?

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Make it Stick: Bible Balloons

Sometimes you will hear “God-breathed” in place of “inspired” in the verse we read. We’re going to use our breath to fill up balloons as a reminder that God filled people with His word for us!

Supplies:

- 5 uninflated balloons (you can use less, just put more words on each balloon)
- Permanent marker

Instructions:

- Write “The Bible is God’s Word” on the uninflated balloons, putting one word on each balloon or a couple words per balloon if you are using less than five. An adult or big kid can do this part.
- Blow up the balloons, watch the words grow!

Play keep it up with the balloons and/or have your kids sort them to make the message in order, a fun visual reminder of an important truth!

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Pray: Thank God for giving His word to us.

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Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (this is a long one with some complicated words for the younger kids, so you can shorten it as age appropriate)

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The Bible Is Always True



Read:

How do you know something is true?

Sometimes we can know simply by seeing it. You know the sky is blue because you can look out your window and see that it is!

Other times we can test something to find out if it is true. What if someone told you a penny could float? All you would need is a penny and a cup of water to test and see if what that person said was true or not.

Sometimes we can know something is true when it comes from a trustworthy source. Trustworthy means honest and truthful, someone you can depend on.

So how can we know the Bible is true?

Well, last week we learned that the Bible is God's word. Do you think God is a trustworthy source? He certainly is! He is the most trustworthy source of all.

- God is holy, that means He is perfect, so it is impossible for Him to lie (Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:18)
- He is also omniscient – that's a big word that means all knowing. Because God knows everything there is no way He can ever make a mistake or get something wrong
- In the Bible, Jesus calls Himself the truth (John 14:6)

We can know the Bible is true because it is God's word and God is the source of truth; He is the truth!

We can also see the truth of the Bible in other ways.

- Prophecies that were made about Jesus came true
- Archeological finds (things recovered from the past) show how the writings of the Bible match up to history
- Romans 1:20 teaches that we can look at creation itself as evidence of God

The Bible is true. It was true in the past, it is true today, and it will be true in the future. Check out these verses:

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.” John 17:17

**“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”
Isaiah 40:8**

**“The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances
is everlasting.” Psalm 119:160**

How wonderful it is to know that we can trust everything the Bible says as the truth. The Bible is true, always!

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Apply: If we ever hear something that is different than what the Bible teaches, what should we do? Where can we go to find the truth?

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Make it Stick: Nature Bookmark

Hold your spot in your Bible with a nature bookmark that reminds you of Isaiah 40:8 – though the flowers fade, God’s word stands forever!

Materials:

- Old magazine with flower pictures OR leaves from outside
- Plain or lightly colored paper
- Crayons
- Scissors (collage option)
- Glue (collage option)

Instructions:

- Collage option
 - Cut out pictures of flowers
 - Cut paper to the size of a bookmark
 - Glue the pictures on one side of the bookmark, creating a floral collage
 - Write Isaiah 40:8 on the back of the bookmark

- Leaf rubbing option
 - Place the leaves you collected on a flat surface and cover with paper
 - With a crayon, gently color over the paper, causing the leaf patterns to show up
 - Cut the paper into bookmark size
 - Write Isaiah 40:8 on the back of the bookmark

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Pray: Thank God that His word is true and that we can trust what He says in the Bible.

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Verse: John 17:17

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Supplies:

- Optional - Creation scavenger hunt checklist (see next page)
- Optional – camera/phone

Instructions:

- Find a spot outdoors for your children to search for things in nature that remind them of each of the days of creation
- Check off each day as you go, collecting items when possible if desired
- Alternatively, bigger kids might enjoy taking pictures of items they find to complete the scavenger hunt

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Pray: Thank God for His amazing creation.

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Verse: Genesis 1:1

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Creation Scavenger Hunt



- Day 1: Light
- Day 2: Sky
- Day 3: Seas and Plants
- Day 4: Sun, Moon, and Stars
- Day 5: Fish, Sea Animals, and Birds
- Day 6: Land Animals and People



Little Disciples

Some ideas...

Day 1: Jump in and out of shadows as an illustration of light

Day 2: Point out the breeze moving in the trees or blow bubbles and watch them float up in the sky

Day 3: Leaves, nuts, pinecones, and flowers are all good finds

Day 4: Peek out at the stars before tucking in for bed

Day 5: See if you can find a feather or simply birdwatch a while

Day 6: Watch for little critters in the yard or pick a family pet as an example. Don't forget people too!

Instructions:

- Fill a clear cup with water – the clean, clear water represents the world without sin, the perfect world God created
- Show your children the food coloring – describe this as a representation of sin
- Add one drop of food coloring to the cup of water – watch as it slowly spreads. It will not fill the cup immediately but point out that this shows sin entering the world.
- Swirl or stir the water to completely mix the color – remind your children that it took just one sin to impact the whole world.
- Ask your children if they think they could make the water clear again. Just as there is nothing they could do to take the color out of the water, there is nothing we could do on our own to save ourselves from sin. But remember – God had a plan and next week we'll see just what that was!

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Pray: Just like Adam and Eve we all sin, we all disobey God. But we know we can come to God and ask for forgiveness. Thank Him for listening and forgiving us.

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Verse: Genesis 3:15

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In Colossians 1:13-14 we are told, “For He (God) rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Redemption is a big word that means to be saved, to be bought back. We have redemption through Jesus because the price of sin was paid – our lives are bought back for God and we are saved from death through the promise of eternal life with Him.

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Apply: Have you put your faith in God and accepted the incredible gift He offers of forgiveness of sins? If you have, thank Him again for the sacrifice Jesus made. If not, talk to your parents about it to understand more.

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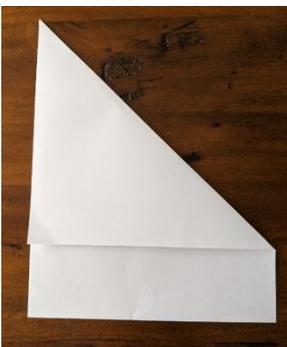
Make it Stick: The Cross Brings Life

With some special folding and a single cut you can turn a piece of paper into a cross and the word life – a reminder of the life we’re given through Jesus.

Materials:

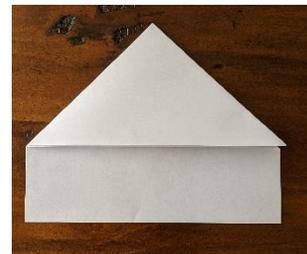
- One sheet plain paper (8x10)
- Scissors

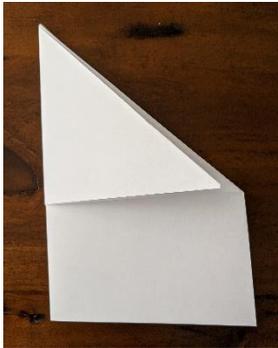
Instructions:



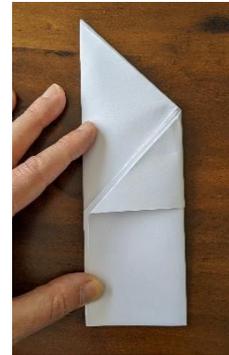
- Fold the top right corner of the paper down

2. Fold the top left corner down

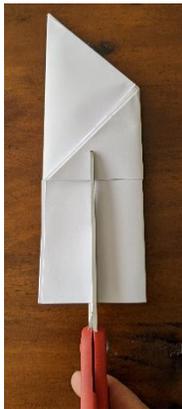




3. Turn paper over and fold it in half lengthwise, left to right



4. Fold in half again, lengthwise, right to left



5. Cut the paper in a straight line down the middle.

6. Unfold the paper. The large piece on the left will form a cross, the remaining scraps can be put together to form the word life.



Original source for this activity found on: <https://missionbibleclass.org/2013/03/09/the-story-of-the-cross/>

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Pray: Thank God for the incredible gift of redemption and forgiveness from sins.

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Verse: John 3:16

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Prayer Detectives



Read:

Imagine you're curled up in bed, chatting with your mom and dad before you go to sleep.

You might tell them about the fun things you did that day, or about something special you're looking forward to later that week. Maybe you'd ask a question you were wondering about. You might ask for their help about a problem you're dealing with. And I bet you'd make sure they know how much you love them.

We like to talk to the people we love about all kinds of things, don't we?

Well, prayer is our chance to talk to God! We can talk to God just as we talk to the people we love. Let's be "prayer detectives" and search for clues in our Bible about why, when, and where we pray as well as what we can pray about.

Why do we pray?

- Because Jesus set an example of prayer – Luke 5:16
- Prayer is how we communicate with God. He listens to and answers our prayers – Jeremiah 29:12

When do we pray?

- Throughout the day – Psalm 55:16-17
- All the time – 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Where do we pray?

- In the place of worship (church) – Acts 3:1
- Anywhere, because God is present everywhere – Psalm 145:18

What do we pray about?

- To praise and thank God – Hebrews 13:15
- For forgiveness from sins – Matthew 6:12
- For strong faith – Luke 22:32
- That the gospel (good news about Christ) will spread – 2 Thessalonians 3:1

We pray out of obedience to God and what He says in His Word, following the example that Jesus set for us. But we also pray because it is a wonderful gift to be able to talk to God! He loves us and we love Him. He wants us to know Him and communicate with Him. What a special gift it is to be able to bring everything in our lives before God in prayer!

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Apply: We often pray together as a family, and that's a good thing! But this week, make a point to pray on your own as well. Talk to God about things that are on your mind, He loves it when you share your heart with Him!

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Make it Stick: Prayer Scavenger Hunt

Send your kids on a fun scavenger hunt to find hidden clues around your home that serve as reminders that you can pray anywhere and anytime!

Materials:

- Scavenger hunt clues and parent guide (see next 2 pages)
- Treat (optional if you want to have kids discover a reward at the end)

Instructions:

- Hide clues 2 through 6 around the house
- Give your kids clue 1 and let them begin the search!
- Use the parent guide to initiate conversations about prayer at each “stop” along the way

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Pray: Thank God that He is always there and always listening, and that we can pray to Him about everything.

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Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Prayer Scavenger Hunt - Clues



Cut out the following clues. Keep clue #1 to give your child as a starting point, hide the remaining clues in the appropriate spot based on where the previous clue would send them. For example, clue #2 would be hidden on your child's pillow since clue #1 would send them there!

#1: When it's almost time for bed, this is where you lay your head

#2: If you get messy and need to scrub, grab a towel and head for the tub

#3: When you curl up to read in a cozy nook, this is where you'll find a book

#4: In winter snow or summer sun, this door leads the way to fresh air fun

#5: It's movie night with the family, go and check by the TV

#6: Your stomach rumbles, it's time to eat, where can you find a tasty treat?

Prayer Scavenger Hunt – Parent Guide



Use these conversation starters as a guide to engage kids in discussion at each scavenger hunt stop!

Stop 1: Pillow/bed

We pray before we go to sleep, but do you ever pray if you wake up in the middle of the night? What about when you first get up in the morning?

Stop 2: Bath

A bath makes us clean on the outside, but how do we become clean on the inside (clean from sin)? How is prayer part of becoming clean inside?

Stop 3: Bookshelf (or other place children’s books are stored)

We often read books for fun, but books can also help us learn. Sometimes learning new things can be challenging. Have you ever prayed when you were working on learning something new?

Stop 4: Door that leads outside

It’s fun to play outside! God’s creation is amazing isn’t it? Have you ever prayed when you were outside? If so, what did you pray about? If not, can you think of something you might pray about while playing outdoors?

Stop 5: TV

Have you ever been watching TV and saw or heard something that made you wonder, “what would God think about this?” How could you pray if that happened?

Stop 6: Pantry or fridge

Why do we pray before meals? Is it just a habit or is there a special reason?

The Fruit of the Spirit



Read:

Have you ever gone to a farm to pick fruit?

You know that every fruit comes from a specific kind of plant, and each plant only makes its own fruit. You wouldn't find apples growing on a blueberry bush, or strawberries on a cherry tree!

Similarly, the Bible teaches that people are known by their "fruit" – our words and actions reveal who we are on the inside!

Galatians 5:22-23 says: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

When we follow God, He gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us live in a way that serves Him. The things we do and say should be honoring to God and should prove to others that we belong to Him. It's not always easy, but when we keep these fruits of the Spirit growing in our lives, we bring God glory and point others to Him!



Apply: Think about a time you've shown one of the fruits of the Spirit in your actions or words. Share about what happened. Now think of a time when you didn't respond the way you should. For example, were you impatient when you had to wait your turn for a toy or game? How should you have responded instead to reflect a fruit of the Spirit?



Make it Stick: Banana Bread

If you have some overripe bananas in your house, try baking a loaf of this banana bread. It's a favorite recipe in our family and an easy one for kids to help with.

Banana Bread Recipe

Combine:

- 1 stick softened butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 overripe bananas
- 1 cup sugar

Bake at 375 for 15 minutes, then decrease to 350 and bake another 35-45 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Add:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- Chocolate chips and/or nuts if desired

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Pray: Pick one specific fruit of the Spirit and pray that God helps you to show that fruit in your life this week.

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Verse: Galatians 5:22-23

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Make it Stick: Miniature Armor

Create a suit of armor for a stuffed animal friend to reinforce the meaning of each piece.

Materials:

- Stuffed animal
- Miscellaneous craft supplies to build armor – let your kids be creative with this and see what they can find. Some suggestions include: aluminum foil, toilet paper rolls, popsicle sticks, and pipe cleaners

Instructions:

- Dress your stuffed animal in armor you create, making sure to include all the pieces listed in Ephesians
- After your stuffed animal is dressed, practice naming each piece to remember what it stands for

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Pray: Ask that God will help you be strong and stand firm.

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Verse: Ephesians 6:11