

LESSON AIM:

To demonstrate to students that the Bible is the world's most important book because it is God's Word to us!

KEY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 119:105, II Timothy 3:16**REVIEW FROM PREVIOUS WEEK:**

- Review the rules of RT class, remind them again they are still “in school” and bigger rules still apply.
- Review Ephesians 4:32, allow students to say it for the class if they know it. Say it all together.

INTRODUCTION:

- Pass out Bibles to the students (some may need to share depending on class size)
- Familiarize yourself with the fact sheet concerning the Bible that is attached to this lesson and share them enthusiastically to give them an idea of how incredible this book is!
- Explain to your students that the Bible is more important than any other book because God told the writers every word to write. It is literally God's word and it was written that we might know about Him and how to have a relationship with Him.
- You might want to find a large Bible with pictures in it, or have your students turn to the Table of Contents, and again point out the Old and New Testament.
- You can also briefly identify the break-down of all 66 books:
 - The "law books" (first 5 books, or the Torah)
 - The historical books
 - The poetry books
 - The major and minor prophets
 - The New Testament gospels (stories of Jesus) Acts (how the church started), the epistles (letters from Paul)
 - The last book, Revelation (Prophecy, how history will end)
- It has been said that the Bible is *His*-story, or “His Story”, the story of Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Savior! When you have a personal relationship with Jesus, He will help you to understand what He has written in His Word.

LESSON:

Begin your lesson by making a BIG DEAL about the amazing book these students are holding in their hands! It is the greatest book of all time -- in the last 100 years over three billion copies have been sold, including one called the Gutenberg Bible which recently sold for over five and a half million dollars! But the real value of the Bible is not how much money it costs or how many sales there have been; the real value of the Bible is that it is God's Word.

Man helped to write it, but God is the author. He inspired every word of it. Over **40 different people** wrote the Bible from all different countries, cultures and time in history! The Bible tells us how the world began, how we got here, the Ten Commandments, the story of Jesus, but most importantly it tells us how we can have a friendship with God.

Have the students again look at the Table of Contents, and point out again that there are 66 different books contained in the Bible: 39 in the Old Testament, and 27 in the New Testament (one way to remember these numbers is that 39 can also be “3 x 9” = 27).

Explain that there are many exciting stories in the Bible about men and women who both obeyed

and disobeyed God. Point out that the stories in the Bible are not myths or fairy tales, **they really happened!** The Bible is the truest, most accurate book ever written. It can be backed up scientifically, historically and prophetically. The Bible is 2/3 prophecy and over half of those prophecies have happened and were proven to be true!

Focus on these main points:

- The Bible is our **guidebook** for living. Have students look up **Psalms 119:105**. Take a moment to remind them how to find the chapter and verse in a book of the Bible. Have them turn to **II Timothy 3:16, 17** and read it out loud.
- The Bible is also our **protector**. Have students look up **Psalm 119:11** and read it out loud.
- The Bible can even be used as a **weapon** against evil. Look up **Ephesians 6:17** and read together.
- Some have even turned the word “BIBLE” into an acronym:

Basic
Instructions
Before
Leaving
Earth

The Bible contains hundreds of promises to each one of us, given by the Lord God Almighty who cannot lie. The Bible declares that God has *always* loved us and will *always* love us, and He is our heavenly Father.

In our Released Time class we will explore this wonderful book. You will become experts in finding verses and you will meet many of the heroes in the Bible. You will also learn by memory verses from God's Word which you will remember for the rest of your life.

Create your own method for teaching and memorizing the memory verse and have the kids repeat it several times before you finish class. Close in prayer and remind them how much God loves them!

MEMORY VERSE:

(Even year):

“Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105

(Odd year):

“I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” Psalm 119:11