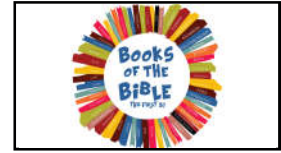


BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT



BOTTOM LINE:

The first five books of the Bible tell how God created the world and chose a special people.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the first 5 books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 17:1-8, God's Covenant with Abraham

MEMORY VERSE:

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

The first five books of the Bible tell us how the world began, what God expects of us (the law), and how God put a plan in action to set things right.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for making the world.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

MEMORY VERSE



"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

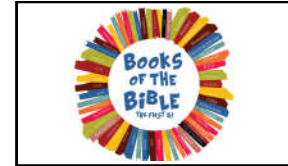
Have the kids read the verse together. Read it normally, then in a whisper, then really, really loud!

SMALL GROUP:

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

SKIT



THE FIRST FIVE

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Mike and Elaine - Bible fans

Mike and Elaine enter.

MIKE: Hey guys, I'm Mike.

ELAINE: And I'm Elaine.

MIKE: And we are Bible fanatics!

ELAINE: We love the Bible!

MIKE: We love it, and we want you to love it. And to help you love it, today, we're going to teach you to recite all 66 books of the Bible!

ELAINE: Whoa, whoa, whoa, partner! All 66 in one day? That's a little crazy.

MIKE: And we're crazy about the Bible!

ELAINE: Sure we are, but 66 books? Come on, Mike, this series is just getting started. We can break it down a little more than that.

MIKE: Okay, how about we just memorize the Old Testament? Huh? 39 books today. That's not so hard.

ELAINE: Why don't we start with the first five?

MIKE: You mean the Pentateuch?

SKIT

ELAINE: Sure, if you want to give it a fancy name.

MIKE: The first five books of the Bible are sometimes called the Pentateuch, but that's not important right now. What is important is that you know these books are the beginning of a story that's still going on today. It's the story of us!

ELAINE: We begin with Genesis. *(holds her hands up in a circle, to represent the world)* In the beginning, God made the world. When we put our hands in a circle like this, it reminds us that God made the world!

MIKE: Of course after God made the world, the world got a little messed up when Adam and Eve sinned. But God didn't give up on us! After the great flood and the story of Noah, God chose a man named Abraham to be the father of a mighty nation - the nation of Israel! And when Genesis ends, that nation is starting to grow.

ELAINE: Exodus is where we learn those special people were turned into slaves in Egypt! God sent a man named Moses to set them free. Moses led them out of Egypt towards a new land, and along the way *(makes a hand motion like she's parting the sea)* God parted the waters of the Red Sea so the people could cross on dry land!

MIKE: In Leviticus, God gave the people his laws. These laws tell us what sin is and how God expects us to treat other people. God also chose special people, called Levites, to teach these laws. *(Mike makes a fist and puts it to his forehead.)* They wore little boxes on their heads that had the law written on it, to keep the law close to their minds.

ELAINE: In Numbers, God asked Moses to do a census. That's a fancy word for counting all the people.

MIKE: That sounds like a big job. How did they do that?

ELAINE: They started at the beginning. *(holds up a hand and counts with her fingers as she says...)* One, two, three...

MIKE: That's a lot of counting. But finally, we come to Deuteronomy, *(holds up two fingers)* where Moses teaches the people God's laws a second time. Why did he do that? Because the people kept forgetting and kept on sinning!

ELAINE: I thought *(holds up fingers in a peace sign)* Dude-eronomy was a book about surfing.

MIKE: No, no, it's a book about teaching the law *(holds up two fingers)* two times.

SKIT

ELAINE: Well there you have it, kids. The first five books of the Bible. (*holds hands in a circle*) Genesis. (*parts the waters with her hand*) Exodus. (*holds a fist on her forehead*) Leviticus. (*Counts on her fingers*) Numbers. (*holds up two fingers in a peace sign*) And the surfing book, Dude-eronomy.

MIKE: It's Deuteronomy. It's not about surfing!

ELAINE: You learn the books your way, I'll remember them my way.

MIKE: Whatever makes it stick!

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

HAND MOTION LESSON

During the middle 10 lessons of this series, there will not be a traditional object lesson. Instead, use this time to teach and reinforce the hand motions that go with each book.

During this series, you are going to learn all sixty-six books of the Bible. I know that sounds like a lot, but today, we're going to start with the first five books of the Bible. And to help you remember all these books, we're going to use hand motions.

The first book of the Bible is Genesis. In Genesis, God makes the world. To help us remember Genesis, we'll put our hands together in a circle, the shape of the world!

Exodus is the second book. This is the book when God saves his chosen people Israel from slavery. Moses led the people to safety when God parted the Red Sea. Let's open our hands out like this to represent the parting of the sea and remember Exodus.

Leviticus is about God's laws. God's chosen leaders, the Levites, wore little boxes on their heads that held pieces of paper with the law written on them. Let's put our fists in the shape of a box and put them on our heads to remember Leviticus.

Then comes Numbers, when God takes a head count of all the people of Israel. Let's remember Numbers by counting on our fingers, one, two, three.

And finally, we come to Deuteronomy, when Moses teaches the people God's laws a second time. Two fingers should help us remember Deuteronomy.

Let's review the books and their hand motions together a few times so we won't forget!

Repeat the five books and their hand motions with the kids 2-3 times to wrap up the lesson.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LARGE GROUP GAME

LET MY TIC TACS GO

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two boxes of Tic Tacs

INSTRUCTIONS:

Give a box of Tic Tacs to two players. The two will race to see who can be first to shake all the Tic Tacs out of their box.

VARIATION:

To make the game harder, attach the Tic Tac boxes to the players' foreheads with a headband.

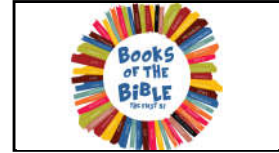
WHAT'S THE POINT?

The first five books of the Bible are the beginning of a bigger story.



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LARGE GROUP LESSON



BOTTOM LINE:

The first five books of the Bible tell how God created the world and chose a special people.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the first 5 books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 17:1-8, God's Covenant with Abraham

INTRO:

I'm going to read you guys part of a story. I want you to tell me if you know what story this is. Are you ready?

"Where are you going?" he asked.

"I am going to grandma's house," she said.

"I know a faster way to grandma's house. If you go this way, it's a short cut."

Can anyone tell me what story this is?

I'm sure most of you recognized this as the story of Little Red Riding Hood because you've heard the story over and over. But what if you had never heard the story before? How would you know who the girl was? How would you know she was talking to a dangerous wolf? How would you know she was being tricked?

Every story has a beginning. The beginning of the story tells us who the story is about, where it takes place, when it takes place, and what is happening. Without this information, we'd be lost.

The Bible begins with three books that tell us everything we need to know to understand the rest of the Bible. It tells us that God made the world. It tells us that the world became broken because of sin. It tells the story of how God started over with a man named Noah and a great flood. Most importantly, it tells us that God made a promise.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ GENESIS 17:1-8

MAIN POINT:

God promised Abraham that he would make his descendants a mighty nation. Abraham's descendants would become the nation of Israel, and through Israel, God would send a Savior to forgive our sins and change the world.

The first five books of the Bible are the story of how God established Israel and began his plan to save us.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Genesis is the first of these books. Genesis starts with the Creation story, how God made the world. It tells us about Adam and Eve and how their sin caused us to be separated from God. Genesis tells the story of Noah's Ark, Abraham, and Abraham's children, whom God will call Israel.

Exodus is the story of how God saved Israel from slavery. God sent a man named Moses to free them from a wicked King. God parted the waters of the Red Sea to help them escape Egypt, and they began the long journey to the land God promised Abraham.

Leviticus is the book of God's laws. These laws taught the people how they should live and how they should treat others. God gave the people instructions on how to worship him and how to live their daily lives. It's a lot less story, but it tells us what God expects of us.

In Numbers, Moses took a count of all of God's people. There were twelve tribes in the nation of Israel filled with men, women, and children, and when we read Numbers, we can see how much God has truly blessed the children of Israel!

Finally, Deuteronomy is when Moses told the people the law of God again. A whole new generation had grown up in the wilderness, and God wanted Moses to remind the people what he expected of them before their new leader, Joshua, led them into the Promised Land.

The first five books of the Bible are just the beginning of a greater story. There are a lot of rules and a lot of history, but it all comes down to this. God made the world. God loves us. And God had a plan right from the beginning to save us from sin.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These are the first five books of the Bible, and the beginning of the greatest book ever written.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for making the world.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

What's the best beginning to any movie or story you know?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

2 Timothy 3:16

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's lesson.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 17:1-8

Who was Abraham?

What promise did God make to him?

What are the first five books of the Bible?

What do these five books teach us?

ACTIVITY:

Review the hand motions with the kids for the five books.

Genesis - Circle hands

Exodus - Open hands as if parting the sea

Leviticus - Fist on forehead to represent the law on our minds

Numbers - Counting to 3 on fingers

Deuteronomy - Two fingers in a peace sign

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for your promise to save us from sin.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Q & A

What is the first book of the Bible?

GENESIS

In which book does Moses re-teach the law of God?

DEUTERONOMY

In which book does the nation of Israel cross the Red Sea?

EXODUS

In which book does Moses count all the people in Israel?

NUMBERS

Which book tells us the laws that God gave the Israelites?

LEVITICUS

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: THE FIRST 5!



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

The first five books of the Bible tell us how the world began, what God expects of us (the law), and how God put a plan in action to set things right.

Genesis 17:1-8, God's Covenant with Abraham



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask the kids to teach you the hand motions they learned to help them remember the first five books of the Bible.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What are the first five books of the Bible about?
- What promise did God make to Abraham?
- What are the first five books?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

The first five books of the Bible are books of history. Their story is just the beginning of the greater story of the Bible. Encourage your kids to practice reciting the book names, and spend some time reading from these books with them.