

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

The books of poetry are full of praise and wisdom.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the next 5 books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

KEY PASSAGE:

Proverbs 1:1-7, Listen to Wisdom

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:

God’s books of poetry are not simply pretty verses. They are filled with praise to our God and wisdom for daily living.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

We praise you for all you have done and how great you are!

*In Jesus’ name,
Amen*

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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 all the fifth/sixth graders (whatever the oldest age in the room may be) read the verse first. Then add the next grade down and repeat. Add the next grade down, and repeat. Keep repeating until everyone is reading together.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

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SKIT

BETTER THAN SHAKESPEARE

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: And today, we are taking a break from history to talk about poetry.

MIKE: Poetry? You mean there's poetry in the Bible?

ELAINE: Come on, Mike, you know the middle of the Bible is filled with poetry!

MIKE: Yes I do, Elaine. There are five books of poetry, five very different books with poems that praise God and teach us about God's wisdom.

ELAINE: Well let's get to them!

MIKE: The first book is a narrative poem about a man named Job, who had a very bad day.

ELAINE: How bad was it?

MIKE: It was so bad, he lost his family, all his wealth, and even his health!

ELAINE: Oh no!

SKIT

MIKE: He was in such pain, he was scratching himself with shards of pottery to get some relief. But no matter what happened, he kept his faith in God.

ELAINE: We can pretend to scratch our arms as a hand-motion to remember Job.

MIKE: Great idea. Then we can lift one hand to Heaven for the book of Psalms.

ELAINE: That's a great idea. Psalms is a collection of 150 songs of praise to our God. So let's lift our hand to praise God with Psalms.

MIKE: Next comes the book of Proverbs, which contains the wisdom of Solomon and other wise teachers. (*points his finger at the kids*) If you listen to Proverbs, you will be wise indeed.

ELAINE: Hey, that's a good hand motion for Proverbs. Point your finger like you're teaching something important.

MIKE: I like it! I like it!

ELAINE: Next comes the book of Ecclesiastes, another book of wisdom from Solomon in which he tells us that everything, except loving God, is meaningless. So let's shrug our shoulders to remember Ecclesiastes means everything other than loving God is meaningless!

MIKE: Finally, we come to Song of Solomon, a poem about love and marriage.

ELAINE: They go together like a horse and carriage!

MIKE: Let's pretend we're putting a ring on our fingers to represent marriage - and Song of Solomon.

ELAINE: Let's review our books of poetry one more time. Scratch your arm for Job. Lift your hand in praise for Psalms. Point your finger to remember the wisdom of Proverbs. Shrug your shoulders for Ecclesiastes, and put a ring on your finger for Song of Solomon.

MIKE: Next week, we'll memorize all 150 of the Psalms.

ELAINE: What????

MIKE: Just kidding!

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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.

Today we're learning about the books of poetry. There are only five poetry books in the Bible, and each one has something unique to say.

Job is the first book of poetry, and it tells the story of a man who had everything and lost it all. God allowed Job, a faithful man, to be put to the test. Job was left with nothing - no property, no children, not even his health. He was scratching himself with broken pottery to relieve the painful sores on his body, but through it all, he kept his faith in God. Let's scratch our arms to help us remember the story of Job.

Psalms is the longest book in the Bible (most chapters), a book filled with songs and poems of praise. Let's lift our hand high to God to help us remember Psalms.

Proverbs is a book filled with wisdom in which the wise King Solomon says, "My son, listen to my teaching!" Let's point our finger like Solomon to remember Proverbs.

Ecclesiastes is another book of Solomon. Solomon tells us that everything in this world is meaningless because only God is eternal. Let's shrug our shoulders as if to say, "It's all meaningless!" when we remember Ecclesiastes.

And finally, Song of Solomon is a poem about the love between a husband and a wife. Pretend to put a wedding ring on your finger, and let that be a reminder about the Song of Solomon.

Let's review these one more time!

Repeat the five books and their hand motions with the kids 2-3 times then review all the books from Genesis to Song of Solomon to wrap up the lesson.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LARGE GROUP GAME

150 PENNIES

ITEMS NEEDED:

A big pile of pennies
Two cups

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. The kids will race to be the first to count and collect 150 pennies (one for each Psalm) in their cup. First one to 150 wins.

VARIATION:

This can also be a beat the clock challenge, where one player tries to collect or sort 150 pennies in 60 seconds or less.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

The books of poetry are full of praise and wisdom.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

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OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the next 5 books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

KEY PASSAGE:

Proverbs 1:1-7, Listen to Wisdom

INTRO:

We've approached the half way point, not only of the Old Testament, but the Bible itself. The books of history make up a big chunk of the Bible, and they're full of stories, history, laws, and hard lessons for us all. Let's see if you can remember those 17 books with me.

Review the books as a group from Genesis through Esther, with the hand motions.

So far, the books of the Bible have given us the story of God and man from the beginning up to the time when the Israelites returned from exile. That's a lot of time, and that's a lot of hard lessons learned. Right after the 17 books of history we've covered, the Bible takes a break to give us not more history, but poetry!

The Bible doesn't give us just one type of poem either. It gives us five distinct books of poetry that are filled with wisdom and praise to our God!

Some people think that poetry is hard to understand. Poetry can be very symbolic and pretty. It can also be hard to follow. But other people say poetry is better at helping us understand big ideas than regular writing. God's books of poetry are filled with lovely praise to our God, but they're also full of something we all need: God's wisdom. Listen to the words of King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, as he starts the book of Proverbs.

READ Proverbs 1:1-7

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

One of the great things about poetry is that it is easier to learn and remember than regular writing. The way poetry is written makes it easier for all of us to memorize than long paragraphs.

The wisdom found in Proverbs and the other books of poetry can help us to live the way God wants us to live. We find advice in Proverbs for spending money, for getting an education, for loving others, for loving God, and so much more.

God wants us to be wise, and he wants us to praise and honor his name. The books of poetry can help us do both. They can teach us about living for God, and they can fill our hearts with songs of praise.

DRIVE IT HOME:

The first book of poetry is a narrative poem, a poem that tells a story. The book of Job tells the story of a man who loved God very much. He was extremely wealthy, and he had a huge family. Then God allowed Job to be tested, to see if his faith was true. Everything Job possessed was taken away from him, and his friends told him to forget about God, but Job held true to his faith. Job's story is a great tale about perseverance and keeping our faith in bad times.

The next book is the one we think of as the longest book in the Bible because it has the most chapters. It's the book of Psalms. King David wrote many of the Psalms, and every one of them is a song of praise to God. The Psalms can lift our hearts when we feel down, and they can help us praise God in good times and bad.

David's son Solomon wrote most of the next book, Proverbs, and the entire fourth book, Ecclesiastes. These books are filled with Solomon's collected wisdom. Proverbs is mostly the wise sayings of the wise king, while Ecclesiastes is Solomon's reflection on his life. Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes that everything apart from our faith in God is meaningless, and he urges us to focus on God and enjoying the blessings we have.

Solomon also wrote the fifth book of poetry, Song of Solomon. This is a love poem, a poem that teaches us about the amazing love of a husband and a wife. It's a beautiful poem that shows us God's design for a happy, loving marriage.

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are books of poetry that have more to offer us than pretty words. The books of poetry teach us to praise God and to follow his wisdom. If we learn the words of these books and apply them to our lives, we will be wiser and more grateful people.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

We praise you for all you have done and how great you are!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

Who can remember the first five books and the twelve history books with their hand motions?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

2 Timothy 3:16

Have the kids sing the memory verse in the style of their favorite pop/rock singer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Proverbs 1:1-7

Why is knowing God's wisdom important?

What else do we get from the books of poetry?

ACTIVITY:

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

Job - Scratch your arm

Psalms - Lift a hand in praise

Proverbs - Point like a teacher

Ecclesiastes - Shrug, because it's all meaningless

Song of Solomon - Put a "wedding ring" on your finger

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the books of poetry and all we can learn from them.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

WHICH BOOK IS WHICH?

This book is all about love and marriage.

SONG OF SOLOMON

This book says it's all meaningless without God.

ECCLESIASTES

This book is about a man having a very bad day.

JOB

This book is about wisdom.

PROVERBS

This book is full of songs to God.

PSALMS

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MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BETTER THAN SHAKESPEARE



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home: God's books of poetry are not simply pretty verses. They are filled with praise to our God and wisdom for daily living. Proverbs 1:1-7, Listen to Wisdom



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real: Ask the kids to teach you the hand motions they learned to help them remember the poetry books of the Bible. See if they can remember all of the books from the beginning.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What are the five books of poetry?
- What do we find in the book of Psalms?
- What else do we find in the books of poetry that can help us every day?



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 books of poetry are full of praise songs and wisdom for daily life. Read some Psalms and Proverbs with your kids this week, and ask them if they can tell what the author is trying to teach through their poetry.

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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Each week, the kids will cut out and make “book spines” for the books of the Bible they learn that week. The goal is by the end of the series, they will be able to put all of these crafts end to end on a wall or other display at home to show all the books of the Bible lined up, if they so choose.

Use construction paper to cut out the book ends. They can either do different colored strips for each book and paste them onto another piece of paper, or they can use one color and use a marker to draw lines to divide the books. Help them write the book names on each book “spine” in order.

This week's books are:

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon