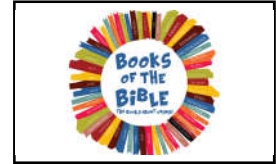


BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT



BOTTOM LINE:

The Gospels tell the story of Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the next four books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:16-17, Jesus Sums Up His Life's Mission

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 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

The Gospels are the books that change the whole story of the Bible. Jesus has come to fulfill the prophecies, to pay the price for our sins, and set us free.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus!

*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:

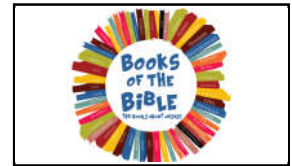
Play a rap/hip-hop beat on the drums, and rap the memory verse for the kids, then have them repeat it back to you. Do this 3-4 times. See if they can do it the last time without reading it off the screen.

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

SKIT



ALL ABOUT JESUS

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 finally starting on the New Testament!

MIKE: There are 27 books in the New Testament, and the first four each tell the same story. These four books are all about Jesus!

ELAINE: We call these books the Gospels, and it's in the Gospels that God fulfills his promise to save us all from our sins.

MIKE: Gospel number one was written by a guy named Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector before he met Jesus. Jesus said, "Follow me," and Matthew became one of Jesus's twelve disciples. Matthew's book is one of the longer Gospels, so let's put our hands together and make a big M with our fingers for Matthew.

ELAINE: The next Gospel is the smallest of the Gospels. It was written by a man named Mark, who wasn't a disciple but was a close follower of Jesus. Later on, Mark would accompany the great missionary Paul on many of his missionary journeys. Since Mark's book is the shortest of the four Gospels, let's turn our hand upside down and make an M with three fingers on our hand.

SKIT

MIKE: The next Gospel was written by Luke. Luke was a doctor and also a believer in Jesus. Luke wrote his book to encourage the believers and prove to skeptics that Jesus was the Son of God. Let's make an L with our fingers to help us remember Luke.

ELAINE: And finally we come to John. John was one of the disciples and one of Jesus's closest friends. John's gospel is very different from the first three, especially the way it starts. John tells us that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Jesus is the Word of God. He is the Messiah who came to save us. Let's make a W with our fingers to remember John's opening words.

MIKE: All four of these books give us a different view of Jesus. Read together, they give us a much bigger picture of the man God sent to save us from our sins.

ELAINE: Jesus fulfilled the words of the Prophets. He fulfilled God's promise to save his people and the whole world.

MIKE: Let's review the Gospels one more time so we don't forget. Big M for Matthew. Little M for Mark.

ELAINE: L for Luke. And a W for John who said, "In the beginning was the Word."

MIKE: The Gospels are the turning point of the whole Bible. God sent his son to die for our sins. Let's never forget these books of the Bible!

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.

The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. In the New Testament, everything changes because God sends his son Jesus to die for our sins.

The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels. The Gospels were written by men who knew Jesus, and each one tells the story of Jesus from their own point of view.

Matthew is the first of these Gospels. Matthew was a tax collector whom Jesus called to be one of his followers. Matthew wrote his Gospel to the Jews so they would believe in Jesus. Let's make a big M for Matthew with two hands to help us remember his book.

Mark's Gospel is much shorter than Matthew. In fact it's the shortest of all the Gospels. Mark probably wrote his Gospel to encourage the believers in Rome when they were being persecuted. Let's make a small M with three fingers on one hand to remember Mark.

Luke was a physician, a very detailed man who wrote his Gospel to help people believe that Jesus was the Son of God. For Luke, we can form two fingers into the shape of an L.

Finally we come to John. John was one of the first disciples and the only to follow Jesus to the cross. John wrote that Jesus was the Word of God, so we can make a W to help us remember the words of John.

Now repeat them all with me, with the hand motions, so we can all memorize the Gospels.

Repeat the four books and their hand motions with the kids 2-3 times then go through all the books from Genesis to John to wrap up the lesson.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LARGE GROUP GAME



GOSPEL SORT

ITEMS NEEDED:

Four music stands
Four signs with the names of the Gospels on them

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one player for this game. Give them the four signs and have them put the signs on the music stands in the order they appear in the New Testament. After the contestant puts all the signs up, have an adult leader tell them if they are right or wrong. If they are wrong, tell the student how many books are out of order, but do not tell them which ones. The student will get one more chance to get them right.

VARIATION:

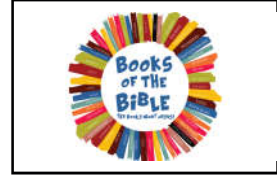
This can also be a timed contest with the player trying to sort the Gospels in the correct order in 30 to 60 seconds.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

The Gospels tell the story of Jesus.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LARGE GROUP LESSON



BOTTOM LINE:

The Gospels tell the story of Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the next four books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:16-17, Jesus Sums Up His Life's Mission

INTRO:

The first 39 books of the Bible make up the Old Testament. These books were all written in the days before Jesus. They teach us how the world began, how God chose a special people, and the history of those people.

The Old Testament is also filled with poetry, wisdom and prophecy. Many of these prophecies speak about God's plan to save the world from sin. God promised to send a Savior, a Messiah, who would conquer sin so that we could be reunited with God. The people waited and waited for the Messiah to come, and finally, as the New Testament begins, he arrives.

The New Testament is the story of the Messiah and how he changed the world. God sent his son Jesus to die for our sins, fulfilling all the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament. The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels, and each one tells the story of Jesus from a different point of view. Each one separately is an amazing story, but the more we read, the bigger picture we get of who Jesus was and why God sent him to Earth.

READ JOHN 3:16-17

MAIN POINT:

John 3:16 is probably the best known verse in the entire Bible. This verse sums up exactly why Jesus came to Earth. God loved the world so much, he sacrificed his own son to save it. Anyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life.

Many people know verse 16 but not verse 17, and verse 17 has something very important to add to this message. Jesus did not come into this world to condemn us.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Even though we are sinners and we deserve to be punished for our sin, God's purpose for Jesus was to save us. God loved us too much to let us die in our sin, and that is why he sent Jesus.

God could have given up on mankind at any time. He could have wiped out the whole world, including Noah and his family, in the Great Flood. He could have abandoned his chosen people Israel to the Babylonians and let them all die in captivity. But God gave them a second chance, just as he always had.

God loved us so much, he gave up his only son to save us. That's not just the message of the Gospels, that's the message of the entire Bible!

DRIVE IT HOME:

There are four Gospels in the modern Bible, each written by a different man for a different audience, but all were written with one goal in mind: to convince people to believe that Jesus was the son of God.

Matthew was a Jew. He was a tax collector Jesus called to follow him. Matthew, more than any other Gospel writer, refers to the Old Testament prophecies hoping to convince his fellow Jews that Jesus is the Messiah God had promised them.

Mark's book is shorter than the others. It's likely he wrote his book in Rome, where his mentor the apostle Paul was in chains for Christ. Mark wanted to reassure the faithful that Jesus was who he said he was so they would stand strong in the face of persecution.

Luke was a doctor. His account of Christ's life is very detailed, and it's written in a way to convince his readers to believe in Jesus.

John's Gospel is the most unique of the four, and his shows the picture of a very loving Savior. John was closer to Jesus than any of the other Gospel writers, and he was the only disciple who followed him to the cross. It's a beautiful picture of the Messiah who came to die for our sins.

The Gospels are the key books of the entire Bible because it's in the Gospels that our fate changes. We are no longer lost. We can be saved through the blood of Jesus. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell us how Jesus came to save us and how we can be saved!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus.
In Jesus' name, Amen*

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

Who can go through all the Old Testament books, Genesis to Malachi, with the hand motions?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

2 Timothy 3:16

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read John 3:16-17

Who was Jesus?

What did Jesus come to do?

How can we be saved from our sins?

ACTIVITY:

Review the hand motions with the kids for the Gospels.

Matthew - Make a big M with two hands

Mark - Make a small M with 3 fingers on one hand

Luke - Make an L with the thumb and index finger of one hand

John - Make a W to remember, "In the beginning was the Word..."

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us enough to save us from our sins.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Luke was one of the twelve disciples.

FALSE

Mark is the shortest Gospel.

TRUE

The Gospels all tell the story of Jesus.

TRUE

John was the only disciple at the cross when Jesus died.

TRUE

Matthew was a fisherman before becoming a disciple.

FALSE

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: THE BOOKS ABOUT JESUS!



IN THE CAR:

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

The Gospels are the books that change the whole story of the Bible. Jesus has come to fulfill the prophecies, to pay the price for our sins, and set us free. John 3:16-17, Jesus Sums Up His Life's Mission



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask the kids to teach you the hand motions they learned to help them remember the Gospels. See if they can remember all of the books from the beginning.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What story do we find in the Gospels?
- Who wrote the four Gospels?
- Why does the Bible give us four versions of the same story?



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 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

The Gospels are the turning point of the Bible. We are no longer lost in sin because Jesus has conquered sin and death. Make a plan to read through the Gospels with your kids. Start with the shortest, Mark, and see how far you can get before next Sunday.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

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BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

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:

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John