

The Bible Is God's Book

God's Word— The Bible



Theme 1—Lesson 1

Topic

The Bible

Theme

The Bible is God's Word, making it unique and superior to all other books.

Desired Response

The student will tell four reasons why the Bible is unique and superior to all other books.

Primary Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16

Encourage all students to look up the verses in this lesson. Tell them what section of their Bibles to look in. Direct them to their Bible's table of contents for additional help. Have workers assist younger students and students unfamiliar with the Bible. You may even need to explain the parts of a Bible reference. Having the students become comfortable with looking up Bible verses is important. Be patient with them.

INTRODUCING DOCTRINE

Gather

- Children's books for the age groups you are instructing. See your local library or ask students before the session to bring a book they have read. Consider bringing books you have read to your children or even books you read as a child.
1. Display the books so the students can see them.
 2. Give students who have read one of the books an opportunity to share what the book is about. Do the same for the books you have read.
 3. Talk about books in general.

Libraries are filled with all kinds of books. Some books are stories about castles and knights in shining armor. Others are made-up stories about talking animals or even aliens from outer space. Some books are true stories about people like Abraham Lincoln or Thomas Edison. And other books are filled with information about airplanes, animals, volcanos, or sports. Some are new and popular. Some have been around for many years.

4. Hold up your Bible and discuss it.

ASK: How is the Bible similar to the books we looked at today? It has true stories in it. It includes facts about us and the world around us. It is interesting to read. It tells us about historical people and events.

5. Transition to the doctrine lesson.

The Bible might look very much like all these other books on my table, but it is not. There are some important characteristics that make the Bible very different than any other book! The historical figure, Patrick Henry, said, "The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed." Let's find out why.

LEARNING DOCTRINE

BIBLE DRILL: Students look up 2 Timothy 3:16. The first person to find the verse stands and reads the verse after most of the students have found the verse. Do this for the rest of the Bible Drills in this lesson.

ASK: The verse we just read calls the Bible by the name "Scripture." What are other names for the Bible? *God's Word. The Word of God.*

ASK: Why do we call the Bible "God's Word"? Look at the verse you just read. *Because the Bible is written by God.*

The Bible is God's written message to us. That makes it so much better than any other



book you could own! All of the books I showed you are written by human authors. (Pick up two or three books and read the author's name.) The authors are people just like you and me. But the Bible is written by the almighty, holy, perfect, powerful, one true God of the universe! Wow!

But wait. How did God write the Bible? I thought no one could see God? Did He reach down through the sky in a cloud with a giant pen and write the Bible? Not exactly.

BIBLE DRILL: Instruct students to look up 2 Peter 1:21. The first person to find the verse stands and reads the verse after most of the students have found the verse.

ASK: Who did God use to write His Word? *Holy men of God.*

Second Peter 1:21 says that the Bible (prophecy) was not just man's idea. Moses did not sit down and say, "Hmm, what should I write about today?" No! The writers of the Bible were led by the Holy Spirit to write down exactly what God wanted them to write. Each writer had his own style, but God used their styles to record exactly what He wanted in the Bible. The Bible is not filled with the human authors' personal ideas and instructions. The Bible is God's instruction and message. So the Bible is superior to, or more important than, all other books because God Himself is its author.

ASK: If the Bible came from God, can it contain errors? *No.*

ASK: Why not? *God is holy, meaning everything He is and does is perfect and free from any mistakes. God's Word must be perfect and right.*

ASK: If the Bible came from God, would it ever tell us a lie? *No.*

ASK: Why not? *Because God is truth. His Word must be perfectly true too.*

BIBLE DRILL: John 17:17.

The Bible is completely reliable because it comes from God. We can trust everything it says. All other books come from the minds of people. We cannot automatically trust what those books say. Sometimes authors put lies in their books on purpose to make their books more interesting. And sometimes they write things they think are true when they are not. The Bible has no lies to trick us into believing something that is not true. And God never put any statements in the Bible He mistakenly thought were true.

ACTIVITY: Flatten out some Play-Doh on a table. Have two or three students come to the table. Give each of them a pencil to use to carve their name or a short word into the Play-Doh. Hold the Play-Doh up for everyone to see the words.

ASK: What will happen if we leave this Play-Doh sitting out overnight? *It will harden.*

ASK: What will happen to the words we put in the clay? *They will stay as a permanent mark in the clay.*

Some of the oldest "books" in the world were written on clay tablets like we just made. The clay hardened and preserved the words. Some clay tablets date from



about four thousand five hundred years ago. The Old Testament character Abraham was alive when clay tablets were being used! That is a long, long time for a book to survive. The ancient clay books we have today are kept in a safe place. No one is allowed to handle them or even look at them unless they get special permission.

ASK: Do you think ancient clay tablets will last forever as long as they are guarded and protected?

ASK: Do you think our little clay tablet would last forever if we kept it in a safe place?

All clay tablets, including our little one, will eventually pass away because this earth and everything in it will one day pass away. But the Bible is not like clay tablets.

BIBLE DRILL: Isaiah 40:8.

ASK: How long will the Bible last? *Forever.*

Flowers and grass will pass away, but God's Word will never pass away. It will never go out of style or be replaced with something bigger or better. It is God's very own Word. Since God is eternal, His Word is forever. He is the protector of His Word. In fact, His Word is kept in Heaven. No one could ever destroy it or make it cease to exist.

The Bible is superior to all other books because (1) God is the author; (2) the Bible is completely true; and (3) the Bible will last forever. (Say the list again and have the students repeat each point after you.)

The Bible is superior to all other books for one more reason. We will learn what that is in just a minute. But first I want to do a little trick for you.

ACTIVITY: Before class, fold over a piece of tape so the sticky side is out. Put the tape where you can access it easily without the students noticing. Display a Styrofoam cup, letting the students see that it is completely normal. Discreetly put the tape on the end of your thumb and grab the cup so your thumb is taped to the cup. Place the cup between your hands with your thumbs toward you. Hold the cup directly in front of you. Tell the students you are going to make the cup float. Be dramatic, scrunch up your face, take a deep breath, act like it is a big deal. Slowly lift your fingers off the cup, keeping them close to the cup with both thumbs behind the cup. Move your thumb up and down slightly so the cup looks like it is teetering and about to fall. Grab the cup again with both hands. Pull your thumb off the tape and discreetly remove the tape from the cup. Hand the cup to a student to inspect.

ASK: Who understands how I did my trick?

ASK: Who wants me to reveal how I did it? (Reveal your trick to the students.)

I revealed my trick to you. I explained it so you would understand it. God can be hard to understand too. But the Bible reveals God to us. It explains God so we can understand what He is like and what He has done to help us. God does not have to stay a mystery to us. The Bible tells us how we can know Him and even be with Him in Heaven someday.

The gospel will be repeated many times throughout the course of the Kids 4 Truth lessons. Be sensitive to your students. Never hesitate to explain the gospel in greater detail as they show interest. Give them opportunities to ask questions about sin and salvation.



The Bible tells us that God loves us. In fact, it says He loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die on a cross for us. Why did Jesus have to die for us? What did we do to offend God? Jesus had to die for us because we are sinners and deserve to be separated from God forever. Sin is anything we do, say, or think that violates God's perfect holiness. God cannot live with sinners because He is completely sinless. He must punish sin. Jesus died to take our punishment for our sins. He rose from the dead so we might have eternal life! God wants us to trust in Jesus for salvation from our sins.

All we need to know about God is revealed to us in the Bible. That makes the Bible better than any other book. We should be glad that God gave us a Book that is so great and that tells us so many important truths. We can know God and have eternal life because we have His Word!

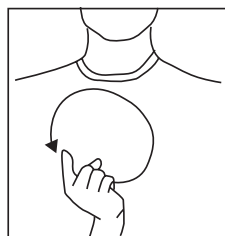
LIVING DOCTRINE

1. Explain what sign language is.

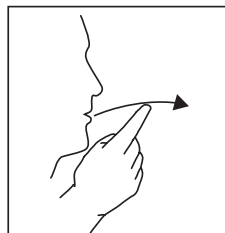
Sign language is the language deaf people use. The deaf cannot hear spoken words, so they use their hands to form pictures of words in order to communicate. We can use sign language to help us remember important truths. We are going to use sign language to help us remember why God's Word is superior to all other books.

2. Read the statements about why the Bible is superior to all other books. Consider writing them on a whiteboard or piece of poster board. Teach the students the signs for the words in bold. Have them review the statements and the signs several times.

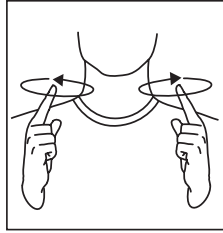
The Bible is superior to all other books because:



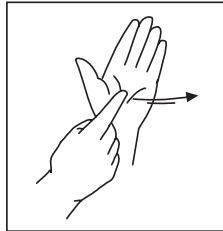
God is the **author** of the Bible.



The Bible is completely **true**.



The Bible will last **forever**.



The Bible **reveals** God to us

3. Give individual students an opportunity to say the statements and do the signs in front of the class.
4. Close the session.

ASK: Since the Bible is so superior to all other books, how do you think we should treat the Bible?

ASK: What will you do this week to show that you believe the Bible is God's Word?