Introduction to the Bible for Kids

Unit One

From the Curriculum Series, “Foundations”

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Note to Teachers and Parents:

The Word of God is so profoundly important for living a life of faithful obedience. As a person studies, it seems that the importance only increases as it becomes evident how essential and powerful it can be in obtaining the inheritance. It is no less important in the lives of children. As they grow and are trained by their parents and in the church, there is a great and wonderful responsibility of equipping them with the truths of the Word of God to impact and change their lives. We are thrilled about this opportunity to have a small part in helping children to establish foundations upon which they can continue to build Scriptural knowledge. An accurate and strong foundation precedes and accurate and strong structure built upon it. Without the right foundation, the structure will be incorrect. What an amazing gift we as teachers and parents can offer our children. Thus this series was born out of a sense of responsibility and love for His Word.

There are a few thoughts we wish to convey before you begin. Please familiarize yourself with the entire unit. All circumstances are different, so whether you find yourself teaching each lesson, or just one in the five, it is important that you see the context of your lesson and how it relates to the others. This way you can draw on previous knowledge they have gained in previous weeks, or take more time on a concept if it is new.

This is an introduction to Bible basics. We reference ‘stories’ of the Bible, throughout the five lessons. We encourage you to emphasize that these ‘stories’ are true, historical and accurately recorded. The word “story” can sometimes suggest comparison to made-up stories and fairy tales. We just want to make sure the distinction is made.

We also want to encourage the teachers and parents to ask the children to bring their Bibles to class each week. The act of seeking for references, and getting their own hands on the Bible, paging through it, and seeing the words, will be a lesson in itself. It is another way for them to become familiar with God’s Word.

Another note to emphasize is to encourage the children to talk with their families about the lessons and what was learned. There is a parent resource sheet at the end of this booklet that will be distributed to each family. Please familiarize yourself with this so you will know what has been reviewed with each child. There are activities that are created to bring things home for this purpose, but it will just be another good reminder.

We hope this will be profitable and fun for you and your class!

Shelby Brewer,
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Lesson 1

*The Bible: One Special Book*

**Objective**

- To help students discover how the Bible is different from any other book. To do this we will be using the truths found in scripture to build a correct foundation about the Bible.

**Memory Verse**

- *2 Timothy 3:16-17* “All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

**Supplies**

- Age appropriate children’s books, a Bible (*one book per child and adult*)
- Medium size balloon
- One balloon per child (*with “2 Tim 3:16” written with permanent marker*)
- Construction paper (9x12)
- Hole puncher
- Yarn
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Copied worksheet: “Things I Know About the Bible”

**Lesson**

Have children sit in a circle and lay various children’s books and a Bible on the ground in the middle of the circle. Begin a discussion on “books”. Ask the children questions about the books (“What do you do with books?”, “What books do you have at home?”, “Do you like reading books?”, etc). Allow time for each child to express his or her thoughts and ideas.

Then instruct the children to each choose a book. Tell them to open it up and explore it. Then continue the previous discussion and include the various parts of the book (Title, author, pages, words, cover, etc.).

Next, ask the child who picked up the Bible to hold it up. Explain that the Bible is different from the other books in the room. Point out the physical
differences and then move into the differences in content. Allow time for children to share their ideas and make sure the following facts are addressed... The Bible is:

- God’s message written to man.
- A book that helps us know how to live our lives in order to please God.
- A book that contains many books, all with one message.
- A book that was written over 1600 years.
- Discuss the different names for the Bible: Scripture, God’s Word, Truth, the Law, Commandments, etc.

Introduce the idea that the Bible talks about itself. Read memory verse 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

“All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

To help children understand that scripture is “God-breathed”, take out deflated balloon and show it to the class. Discuss why the balloon is “small” and “flat” and what needs to happen in order to make it “big” and “round”. Point out that the balloon needs air from someone’s mouth in order to make a balloon shape. Blow the balloon up.

Compare this to the memory verse and explain that the Bible is written from “God’s breath”. God breathed the words, He wrote these important words and stories for us to read and learn from. Point to each child and emphasize the fact that “God-breathed” these special words for each person in the room. Instruct the children to take a deep breath and then slowly breathe out. Point out that things that “have breath” are living. Since we know the Bible is God- breathed we also know it is living. Let’s look at another scripture about this fact -- Hebrews 4:12:

“For the word of God is living and active sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

The way God gave us His God-breathed words was through using men to write them down. Scripture tells us this in 2 Peter 1:21:

“...but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God”

Remind the children that we should never forget how special and important these words are to us.

Put all the books back on the floor. Ask the children to point out the only book that is “God-breathed”. Use this time to review what was learned and
emphasize how the Bible is very different from all the other books on the ground.

Tell the children in the coming weeks we will be learning more about the Bible and why it is such a special book. Emphasize the importance of bringing their Bible to church every Sunday.

**Activity**

Explain to the children that in order to help us remember what we learned today each person is going to make his or her own book to bring home with them.

*Activity Preparation (to be done before class):* Cut pieces of construction paper in half. Gather other materials needed: copied worksheets, scissors, glue sticks, hole punch, yarn and crayons.

*Begin activity* by distributing 6 pieces of construction paper to each child. Point out that these will be the pages of their book. Instruct them to cut out the title from worksheet and glue onto a page to create the cover. They can use crayon to write their name under the title to show they are the “author”.

Then they can cut out additional sentences on worksheet to go into their book and also add their own thoughts and ideas that they recall from the lesson. Use hole-punch to punch two holes in each page and use pieces of yarn to tie book together.

Use the remainder of class time to review this week’s memory verse and song.

Before the children leave, make sure to pass out a balloon to each child. Review the illustration that was given at the beginning of class. Instruct children to take the balloon home. They can blow the balloon up and explain to their family that they learned that the Bible is “God-breathed” and alive.
Things I Know About the Bible

It is a special book.
- Isaiah 40:1

It is one complete true story.
- Isaiah 46:9-10

It helps us grow and guides us.
- Psalm 119:105

It is living and active.
- Hebrews 4:12

It is God-breathed.
- 2 Timothy 3:16
School Age
5
Lesson 2

*The Bible: Learning the Facts*

**Objective**

- To introduce basic facts about the Bible; emphasizing it’s content and structure.

**Memory Verse**

- **Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”

**Supplies**

- Fresh cut flowers, vase
- String or elastic
- Assorted bag of beads (for activity)
- Tape
- Small containers to display beads
- 10 medium size unique beads (for visual)

**Lesson**

Begin today’s lesson by asking the children what they learned last week. Be sure to review the memory verse and main themes.

Introduce this week’s memory verse. Explain that it is another place in scripture where God tells us how special the Bible is: **Isaiah 40:1**

*The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.*

**Visual**

Display the vase of fresh flowers. Ask the children, “What do you think will happen to these flowers in a couple of days?” Allow the children to answer (the flowers will lose their color, they will wilt and eventually die) and direct the conversation back to the memory verse. Emphasize how things in this world, such as grass and flowers, are only around for a short
time, but that God's Word, the Bible, will be here for us and be true always -- in a week, a month, a year – forever!

Today we will build upon last week’s lesson. We are going to learn more about why the Bible is so different and find out what exactly is inside this special book.

Instruct everyone to take out his or her Bible and open it. Ask the children what they see. Ask for visual observations: words, color of the words, page numbers, chapters, etc.

Explain that there are important facts that we should know about the Bible. Use a marker board to summarize each fact. Allow the children to use their Bibles to help them answer questions. Take time to discuss each of the following facts:

- **Does anyone know how many books are in the Bible?** 66 books
- **The Bible is divided into two main parts. Does anyone know the name for each of these sections?** New and Old testaments
  - (Bonus: OT = 39 books, NT= 27 books)
- **The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament was originally written in Greek.**
- **Does anyone know how many different people God used to write the Bible?** 40 different authors
- **Does anyone know how long it took the Bible to be written?** It was written over 1600 years
- **Each book is made up of many chapters. Each chapter is made up of many verses.** These are things that man has added to the Bible to organize it in a way that is easy to find certain scriptures.

Point out that the Bible has many true stories written about numerous people throughout history. God uses the lives of these people, that lived a very long time ago, to guide and teach us today. Ask the children to name stories they can recall from the Bible. Allow each child who answers to briefly summarize the Bible story for the class. (For older children: Ask if they know what book the story is found in and/or if it found in the new or old testament.)

Point out how each Bible story has different people, a different setting and/or takes place at a different time. Then emphasize how each of these individual stories are found within one complete true story --the Bible.

**Visual**

Use the beads and string at this time to illustrate how there are many different stories in the Bible that make up one big true story. Distribute one bead to each child and adult. Ask the children to
identify what they are holding in their hands. Instruct the children to examine the bead carefully, taking note of its physical attributes – shape, size, color, texture, etc. Ask each child to describe his or her bead to the class. Emphasize that each child is only holding a single bead. While it is unique and even beautiful, it is not considered a piece of jewelry all by itself.

Ask the children what steps would need to be taken in order to make the beads into a necklace. Collect all the beads and string them together to form a necklace. Note that there are many beads that make up a necklace. When they are not on a string they are very separate and individual (different shapes, colors, textures). But when the beads are put together on a string they all work together to make a beautiful necklace.

Take the beads off and hand them back to the children. Now ask each child to assign his or her bead a story from the Bible. Discuss how each Bible story is different and individual – just like their bead. Gather the beads, repeating the story each child has chosen and one by one, put them back on the string. Emphasize the analogy: Just like many beads make up one necklace; many stories make up the complete Bible.

**Activity**

Explain to the children that in order to help us remember what we learned today each person is going to make his or her own necklace.

*Activity Preparation (to be done before class):* Gathering materials: various beads, small containers for beads to be displayed, string and tape.

*Begin Activity:* Using the string, measure an appropriate length for a tied necklace (*long enough to be placed over the child's head when tied*). Cut the string and tape one end of the string to the table. Instruct children to place beads on the string leaving enough room at the end to tie the necklace together. (*Adult may need to help tying knots*)

Use the remainder of class time to review this week's memory verse and song. Pass out flowers used at beginning of class (if there is enough for every child) to help children remember the memory verse. For extra emphasis, write or type out memory verse on strips of paper and attach to each flower with string or yarn.
Lesson 3

The Bible: One Complete True Story

Objective

• To help students understand that the Bible is one continuous story. To do this we will be teaching an overview of this story, emphasizing how the Bible tells us about God, His creation and His plans and purposes for His people.

Memory Verse

• Isaiah 46:9-10a “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning.”

Supplies

• 100 Piece Puzzle
• Copied “Bible” Worksheet
• Glue
• Magnets
• Crayons
• Gallon Size Ziploc Bag
• Blank Puzzle Pieces (either purchased or painted a solid color)

Lesson

Begin today’s lesson by asking the children what they learned last week. Review memory verse and necklace making activity. Ask the children to explain what each bead on the necklace represented. Review the concept of the Bible being made up of many parts and/or stories that all fit together to make “one complete true” story.

Visual

(Before children arrive in class put the puzzle pieces from the 100 piece puzzle in the plastic bag and put the box top away so that children cannot see it.) At this time take out the bag of puzzle pieces and distribute one puzzle piece per child. Ask the children to look closely at the puzzle piece in their hand. Can they determine what the picture on the puzzle looks like by looking at only one piece? Handout several more pieces to each child. Repeat the same question. Point out that each piece is a clue to
what the puzzle actually looks like. Dump out the remaining pieces on the floor or table. Ask the children what else they might need to help them complete the puzzle. Bring the box top out at this point and explain that without seeing the whole picture it is hard to see how all the pieces fit together. Point out now that the children see the box top they will be able to successfully put each pieces in it’s correct place to make beautiful picture.

Now take time to relate the illustration to the lesson. Explain that each puzzle piece represents a story in the Bible. There are a lot of different stories, just like there are a lot of different puzzle pieces. And just like the puzzle pieces, the stories in the Bible fit together to make up one big picture. Our job is to study and learn what the big picture looks like (like the box top) so we can figure out how the pieces (or stories) all fit together. *(Pick up puzzle pieces and put puzzle away so it will not be a distraction for children)*

Hold your Bible out for the children to see and open it to the book of Genesis. Using leading questions, begin to get the children to “summarize” the big picture of the Bible. Flip through your Bible as you go so the children can visualize where each story is taking place.

- **Genesis:** “In the beginning...” What happened? God created the heavens and the earth. God created animals. God created man – Adam and Eve.
- **Old Testament:** Ask the children if they can name some stories from the Old Testament – Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, the Israelites, David, etc
- **New Testament:** Ask the children if they know how the New Testament begins. Birth of John the Baptist, birth of Jesus, Jesus teaching and healing, Jesus’ death and resurrection, etc.
- **Revelation:** Ask the children if they know what happens in the last book of the Bible – Details of when Jesus comes back, judgment, if man is found worthy he gets to rule with Jesus in His kingdom.

Tell the children to listen very carefully. Take the facts that were just discussed and read it as a story:

“In the very, beginning God formed the earth and then made it suitable for all kinds of living things – trees and flowers, birds and fish, lions and lambs and most important in God’s eyes, He made man and woman. The first people God created were Adam and Eve and they were placed on the earth with a very specific job: to rule over all the earth, like a king and queen! They had the chance to be in charge of all the living things on the earth -- BUT, God gave them a test to make sure they were going to be good rulers. Adam and Eve did not pass the test, which made them not able to rule the earth. Not only were they not fit to rule, but neither
were their children, or their children’s children, or their children’s children’s children, even you and me! Many, many years pass and God sends His own son, Jesus, to save us and teach us what we need to do so that we can one day rule over the earth. The Bible is full of very important instructions that we must study and obey in order to know how to live our lives and pass our test so that we can one day rule with Jesus. The Bible ends with explaining some future events, showing us that man will be ruling with Jesus (just like God wanted Adam and Eve to do). Man will rule with Jesus over a restored earth and entire universe!!

What an exciting day that will be when we get to rule with Jesus!! All the individual stories throughout the Bible all point to this awesome ending!”

The children might have questions as to some of the specific details that were explained in the above summary. Explain to the children that over the next months they will be more and more details of this amazing story. Use the previous puzzle illustration and explain that each week will be getting one more puzzle piece and will help to make the big picture clearer and clearer.

Activity Preparation (to be done before class): Copy worksheets; write “Isaiah 46:10” one each blank puzzle piece (one per child); glue magnets on the back of puzzle pieces.

At this time pass out worksheets and allow children to color. Explain the concept of the picture they are coloring – reiterating the theme and objective of the lesson. Instruct the children to think of stories from the Bible to fill in the blank spaces. You might need to help the younger children come up with these.

Use the remainder of class time to review this week’s memory verse and song.

At the end of class pass out puzzle piece magnets as a reminder of today’s lesson. Review puzzle visual and encourage children to explain this to their family.
Think of other Bible stories and write them in the blank spaces. Can you see that all of the Bible stories make up one complete true story?
Lesson 4

*The Bible: For Growth and Guidance*

**Objective**

- To present the idea that the Bible has important instructions for us; the instructions help us grow in our faith and guide us in our everyday lives.

**Memory Verse**

- **Psalm 119:105** “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

**Supplies**

- House plant
- Bright flashlight
- Scissors
- Permanent marker
- Water in container (to water plant)
- Copied Coloring Sheet
- Craft Foam
- Masking Tape
- Notecards
- “Mini” flashlights (one per child)
- Marker Board, Markers

**Lesson**

Begin today’s lesson by asking the children what they learned last week. Be sure to review the memory verse and main themes.

Explain to the children that we will be learning even more about the Bible. Today we will be discussing how the Bible helps us grow and guides our lives.

**Visual**

Set the houseplant out for the children to see. Begin a discussion about the plant. Ask the children:

- “What did this plant look like when it first started growing?” *A seed*
- “What did the plant need to grow from a small seed to a beautiful big plant?” *Water/food and light*
- “What will happen to the plant if it does not get water and light?” *It will stop growing*
Continue the discussion using the examples of other living things; such as a tree, a puppy, a newborn, children, adults, etc. Use the above questions to guide the discussion. Be sure to emphasize the fact that all living things need both water and light to grow properly.

Next, ask the children, “Do you know that the Bible helps to make things grow? Let’s open our Bibles and see what it says about this…” Help children to find each verse and choose a child to read the following verses aloud.

1. **1 Peter 2:2** “Like newborn babes long for the pure milk of the Word so that you may grow in respect to salvation.”
   - Use a marker board to help illustrate this verse. You can draw a baby drinking a bottle of milk.
   - **What do baby’s long for that will help them grow? Milk**
   - Take time to explain the comparison in the verse: the Bible is being compared to milk for a newborn baby.
   - Ask the children if they have younger siblings or have been around babies. Do they remember that when a tiny baby is hungry milk was the only food that a baby eats – and this helps them grow up to be big and strong.

2. **Psalm 1:2-3** “But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither and in whatever he does, he prospers”
   - Use a marker board to help illustrate this verse. As you read it you can draw a tree by a stream, then add the leaves and fruit on the tree.
   - Restate the verse in your own words. Simplify it – “Whoever studies the Word of God will grow like a strong tree!” Continue the thought by asking, “What helps a tree stand up strong?” Roots -- which soak up water and nutrients in the soil.
   - Point out the location of the tree – by streams of water. What does water help the tree to do…grow and produce fruit!
   - Ask the children, “What does this verse say we need to do to be like the tree planted by streams of water?” Delight in the law of the Lord and meditate on it day and night.
   - Ask, “Do you want to be like the tree by the water and so you can grow in your understanding of God?”

These two verses tell us that the Bible is like milk and/or water that provides the things to make us grow. Now let’s look and see how the Bible is like a “light” that guides us:
1. Psalm 119:105 "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."
   - What two things does this verse say the Bible is like? A lamp and a light.
   - Summarize: The Bible is like a light showing us where to go.

Transition into the activity by discussing how the Bible, as our “light” helps guide us in our everyday life. Use the following examples and ask the children if they can think of their own examples to share.

- **A child who is going to his or her first day of school.** He or she may be afraid to walk in a classroom with a new teacher and new classmates, but can remember what the Bible says in Psalm 56:3 “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you.”
- **A friend knocking down your block creation.** You have worked very hard on building a tower out of blocks and your friend comes walking in the room and knocks some of it down. Instead of getting angry you can remember what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians “love is patient” and ask the person to be more careful next time.
- **A classmate at school is using words that your parents don’t allow you to say.** You might be tempted to say these words, but you can remember what it say in Proverbs 16:23 “A wise man’s heart guides his mouth”. You know that in your heart those words are not to be spoken and can resist this temptation.

Can you see how the Bible guides us in what to do and how to act throughout the day?

**Activity**

**Activity preparation (to be done before class):** Use the craft foam to cut out a Bible shape. (Patterns are provided on page 18.) Cut slits in the middle of the cut out big enough to allow the “Bible” to slide onto the end of the flashlight. Write the word “Bible” on the foam with the marker.

Use notecards to write the memory verse and scripture reference. Write one or two words per card- the children will be collecting these during the activity.

In an unused room that can be easily darkened, place masking tape on the floor to create a path for the children to follow. Along the path, place memory verse notecards that the children will collect. Depending on the ages of students, you can make the “path” more challenging by adding obstacles to go around, written instructions to follow, etc.

**Begin Activity:** Instruct the children that they will be going on a mission. Explain that when they enter the room there will be a path they must follow.
They will be given a special “tool” that will allow them to see where to go on this mission. They must stay on the path and collect every notecard they can find. When they have completed the entire path they will need to put the notecards together to find out what the secret message says. Allow children to go into room with flashlight one at a time. Reposition notecards after each child.

After everyone has completed the activity allow the children to reveal what the message said. Relate the activity to the memory verse and lesson. Emphasize how each person needed the “light” to see where they were going. Relate this to how importance God’s Word is as our light in order to help guide us in our everyday lives.

Distribute “mini” flashlights at this time and allow the children to trace and cut out their own foam Bible that will slide on the flashlight as in the activity above. (Younger children may need assistance.) They will be bringing this home as reminders of today’s lesson. Encourage them talk about what they have learned with their family.

In addition, pass out copied worksheet to send home with each child. Give them the assignment of coloring this page with their parents to help reiterate what was taught today.

Use the remainder of class time to review this week’s memory verse and song.
Bible Pattern for Activity

Bible Pattern for “Mini” Flashlights
Lesson 5
The Bible: Obeying God’s Word

Objective

• To review past lessons and introduce the idea of obeying God’s Word everyday.

Memory Verse

• John 14:15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

Supplies

• Recipe Book
• 2 Cups Frozen Mixed Berries
• 1 Cup Strawberry Yogurt
• 1 Banana
• 1 Cup Milk

• ½ Teaspoon Sugar
• Blender
• Measuring Cups/Spoons
• Notecards
• Cups, Straws

Lesson

Activity Preparation (to be done before class): Place all ingredients and supplies for recipe out on a table. Leave some ingredients unmeasured, as this will be part of the children’s task. Write each step of the recipe on individual notecards that will be given to the children to read.

You can choose to use the provided recipe below or replace it with any other simple recipe. Feel free to choose a recipe that is most conducive to your Sunday School room set-up.

Berry Smoothie Recipe

2 Cups Frozen Mixed Berries
1 Cup Strawberry Yogurt
1 Banana
1 Cup Milk
½ Teaspoon Sugar
1. Measure 2 cups mixed berries and place in blender.
2. Measure 1 cup strawberry yogurt and place in blender.
3. Peel and cut up banana. Place in blender.
4. Measure 1 cup milk and place in blender.
5. Measure ½ teaspoon sugar and place in blender.
6. Put lid on blender and push the “on” button. Blend until smooth.
7. Pour into glasses and serve.

**Begin Activity:** Pass out a notecard to each child. Instruct them to read what is on the notecard. Emphasize that they have been given instructions and they must understand what they are reading in order to perform the given task. Ask the child who has step #1 to go to the table and complete his or her task. Continue with this until all tasks are completed.

After all steps are completed, serve drink in cups with straws to children. Allow time for children to enjoy their drink before beginning discussion. Be sure to collect empty cups and straws from children to prevent any distractions.

Now, take time to connect the above activity with the topic of “obedience”. Use the following statements to guide the discussion:

- What would have happened if they did not understand the instructions?
- What would have happened if they skipped a step?
- Ask the children if they can think of how what they just did (reading, understanding, and then “doing”) relates to the Bible.
- Hold up a cookbook. Compare cookbook with the Bible.
- What does obedience mean?

Make sure to emphasize how each step of the recipes had to be completed correctly in order for the final product to turn out right. Just like we have to read and understand what God’s Word says and then do what it says (obedience) in order for us to be found complete before God. Discuss how it pleases God when we obey His Word and we will be rewarded for our obedience. Tie in today’s memory verse at this time, **John 14:15:**

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

This verse teaches us that when we obey God’s Word it shows that we love Him.

Ask the children to name ways they can be obedient and show love to God. Discuss things the Bible says and ways the children can be obedient. For example:
• God’s Word tells children to obey their parents (Eph 6:1):
  o What do your parents ask you to do?
  o What does it mean to be obedient to them?
  o Are there any rules you must follow?
  o Do your parents like it when you obey?

Emphasize the fact that we obey because it pleases God. We know how to obey because of what God tell us in His Word. Tell the children, “Let’s open God’s Word and read some examples of people who obeyed”. Call on the children to read and discuss the following verses:

**Noah:**

• **God instructing Noah - Genesis 6:9, 13-14, 17, 22**
  9 “This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. // 13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. 14 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. // 17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. // 22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him."

**Abraham:**

• **God speaking to Abraham - Genesis 22:17-19** “indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

**Joshua:**

• **God instructing Joshua - Joshua 6: 2-5, 14, 20** 2”The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. 3"You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. 4"Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5"It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead." // 14Thus the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp; they did so for six days. // 20So the
people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city.

Explain to the children that this is why it is so very important to study and learn what God says. As God instructs us in Joshua 1:8:

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Emphasize the last part of the verse. Remind the children that when we are obedient we are showing God love and He will be faithful to reward us.

Ask each child ways that they can obey God in the coming week. (To help them remember you could pass out notecards and have them write this down and keep it with them throughout the week as a reminder.)

End lesson time with a game of “Simon Says”. Explain the rules of the game.

1. One person is picked to be “Simon” and states instructions to players by saying “Simons Says...” at the beginning of each statement.
2. If the instruction does not begin with “Simon Says...” players are not to complete task.
3. If a player moves following the non “Simon Says...” instructions they are out of the game.
4. Play the game until only one person is left. This person then becomes the new “Simon”.

Point out that they children have to listen carefully to each instruction and complete the appropriate task in order to stay in the game. Relate this with God’s Word and what they have learned about obedience.
Parents: We encourage you to spend some time with your child during the week interacting over the prompts given in this sheet. In each week is a short lesson summary, their memory verse of the week, and some activities or questions that you can do with them. It will be a way for you to plant a seed in preparation for their lesson on Sunday...and for eternity!

Week 1: The Bible: One Special Book

LESSON SUMMARY: Your child will learn that the Bible is distinct from any other book.

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.” (Preschool memory verse is underlined portion.)

ACTIVITIES/QUESTIONS TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN DURING THE WEEK:

- Make a quiet moment with your child and sit together each with a Bible in your hands. Page through it together, listening to the sound of the pages, touching it, even smelling it. Ask questions like “Are there a lot of pictures? What color are the words?” Look at the maps in the back. This could just be a very simple hands-on moment that doesn’t need to go very deep unless it leads to that!
- Ask your child if they know who wrote the Bible. In your child’s Sunday school class, we will go into depth about God writing the Bible. This will be a good chance to introduce this before class.
- Sing the song B-I-B-L-E during the week with your child.

Week 2: The Bible: Learning the Facts

LESSON SUMMARY: Introducing Bible facts, with an emphasis on content and structure.

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”

ACTIVITIES/QUESTIONS TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN DURING THE WEEK:

- Take the time to open your Bibles again with your child. Turn to the beginning and find the table of contents. If your child is at reading age, have him/her read through some of the book titles. If not read through some of the names with them.
- For an extra challenge, get them to count how many books there are.

Week 3: The Bible: One Complete True Story

LESSON SUMMARY: The sum of all the content in the Bible is one complete true story. We want to establish that the Bible is not just a string of unrelated true stories, or passages, but it is all driving toward one purpose—ruling and reigning with Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 46:9-10a “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning.” (Preschool memory verse is underlined portion.)
ACTIVITIES/QUESTIONS TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN DURING THE WEEK:

- Ask your children this question: Is the Bible one ‘story’ or many ‘stories’? *(We use this word with the understanding or distinction that the Bible contains accurate, historical and true accounts. We want the children to understand that the accounts are not “made-up stories” or “imaginary adventures” but that they actually happened to real people at real times in history.) Give them a chance to answer but make sure that the answer is both! All make up one complete true story!
- Next, with Bibles in hand, show that the Bible has a beginning, middle, and an end, just as all books do. Emphasize that you can’t leave any parts out, otherwise you miss out on the message -- just as you would not skip the beginning or middle of another book you chose to read.
- If time during your week allows take a piece of paper and either write, or have your child write the word ‘Bible’ in large letters. With scissors cut the paper into many pieces (none that are too small). Now you have a puzzle! Try to put it back together. This can be a lesson that all the pieces make up the whole.

**Week 4: The Bible: For Growth and Guidance**

LESSON SUMMARY: The Bible has important instructions for us to help us to grow, and to guide us.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 119:105 “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

ACTIVITIES/QUESTIONS TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN DURING THE WEEK:

- Take some sidewalk chalk and head out to the driveway. Trace your children’s feet into a path that leads them a short distance around your driveway/or have siblings do it for each other. Have them color their footprints and then walk the path that they make. If they have siblings have them try each other’s path. Discuss with them how the Bible is a tool that helps direct our path, or as the verse says, ‘light unto my path.’ Explain to them that God shows us the best ‘path’ to take, and the Bible is like the footprints showing where to step next.
- If you have household or outdoor plants, ask your children to help you water them this week. (Even if it is just turning on the sprinkler for the grass!) Explain to them that plants need water in order to grow. Relate this to how it is necessary for us to have the Word of God in our lives if we are going to grow up spiritually.

**Week 5: The Bible: Obeying God’s Word**

LESSON SUMMARY: After learning all of these Bible basics, we want to emphasize that this wonderful, special, distinct Word of God is meant to be obeyed.

MEMORY VERSE: John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

ACTIVITIES/QUESTIONS TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN DURING THE WEEK:

- Sing the “Obedience” song with your children this week
  *(Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe, doing exactly what the Lord commands, doing it faithfully, action is the key to immediately, joy you will receive, obedience is the very best way to show that you believe, O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E, obedience is the very best way to show that you believe)*
- When you read over the memory verse with your children ask them what “keep” My commandments means? Lead this into a discussion of what the definition of obedience is.
- Ask them just from looking at this verse says, what it means if we keep His commandments. That we love Him!
- Share with your child at least one commandment that you obey.