



Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

The B-I-B-L-E

Memory Verse: ...That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. **Luke 4:4**

Lesson Overview: The object of this lesson is simple: to teach children about the Bible. It is understandable how children treat the Bible as a collection of stories. As if the world's telling them so is not enough, they don't understand where it comes from. In this lesson, children will become familiar with the Bible's background, how we know it is real, and how we know it is the Truth.

Requirements for the lesson:

1. Light colored cards (White preferred)
2. White crayons
3. Watercolor paints
4. Brushes

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

"Secret Code" This is a great object lesson. Give each child a card or two, and a white crayon. Instruct them on what to write. Such a message could be our memory verse, or something catchy about the Bible. Explain to the children as you write your message that God's Word is like a secret coded message to the people of the world (those who do not know Him). To them, God's Word is like this seemingly plain piece of paper. It says nothing to them, or it seems like meaningless code so they can't tell what it is saying (1 Corinthians 1:18). Have the children exchange cards and then lightly paint the cards with a darker watercolor paint. Explain that God's Word is very understandable and wise to us that believe in him and his ways. It is our power, and gives us faith.

Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: “Secret Code”

1. Book of Life

Wouldn't it be nice to have an instruction book for your life? Just imagine the possibilities. A book that tells you how to act in every situation! One that tells you how to avoid troubles, how to deal with enemies, and even how to get rich. A book like that would be worth quite a lot of money! Guess what? There is just such a book, and it doesn't cost much at all. It's called the Bible.

QUESTION: We call the Bible a lot of different names. What are some other names for the Bible that you can think of? (*God's Word, The Law, The Scriptures, The Good News, The Book of Life, etc.*)

a. God's Word is Priceless

The Bible may not cost much to buy in a store, but it's priceless. It holds the keys to eternal life.

QUESTION: What are some things about the Bible that you appreciate (like)?

Some people today think it is worthless. That's because they have never tried it out. That's very silly.

QUESTION: What is something that you once thought was worthless or bad, but then when you tried it you came to know that it was very good? (*Like a kind of food*)

We have a church full of people. They are here because they tried out the Bible and found that it is very good too. So the Bible is a very good book full of secrets that God wants to show to all His Christians. He wants to break the code for you so that you understand every word.

b. God's Secret Code

The Army has “secret codes.” They have them because they want everyone in the Army to know that what the General is saying is true. They want the soldiers to know that it wasn't something the enemy said, and that the orders really came from the General. Sometimes the enemy tries to trick them. The enemy can't read the code—only the soldiers who have the book that helps them “break” the coded message can. Everyone who has Jesus in their heart has what it takes to break the code of the Bible.

Now the Bible really doesn't have words that are written in code. Anyone (even people who don't have Jesus in their heart) can read the words: they're in English. In fact, the Bible has been written in just about every language today. God is so clever that He doesn't have to write it in real code. He made the Bible so that it just doesn't make sense to anyone who doesn't have Jesus in their heart. To them, the Bible even seems the opposite of what people should really do. It's not only in code, but it seems wrong to people who are not Christians.

2. What is the Bible?

Since this book that we carry to church is so special, let's take a look at it and see why.

a. Where did it Come From?

First, it's a good idea to figure out where this magnificent book came from and a few other facts about it.

QUESTION: Where do you think the Bible came from? *(Let the children respond. They may have several good answers)*

Let's take a look at our lesson and see if you are right.

(1) God Himself

If you said that it came from God himself, then give yourself a pat on the back. All the true things in the Bible came from God. Everything it says is perfect—no problem can be found with it. That's because God made everything to work *His way*—not ours.

QUESTION: Ever try to do something your way and it didn't work? What was it?

The Bible even says that His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8). Since God put the world together "His way" then we shouldn't expect our way to ever work. We got to use His way, and that's His instructions in the Bible.

(2) Lots of People

If you said lots of different people, then you are right again. God talks to people—even today. He loves it, especially talking with children. The Bible is made up of several different sections we call "books", and each book has an author. An author is the person who wrote that book.

QUESTION: Who can say how many books there are in the Bible? *(66 books in all)*

QUESTION: Who can name some of these authors who wrote the books of the Bible? *(They're too many to mention here, but some are Moses, Paul, Matthew, John, Luke, David, Solomon, any of the prophets)*

God gave all of the Bible's authors the thoughts, ideas, dreams, visions, and laws to write down. We call this "God's revelation knowledge." God gave them the ideas, helped them to understand it, and then put it into words. Some things were easy. God just said, "Now secretary, write this down!" He simply told them what to write.

Sometimes He said, "Take notes about what you see and hear." That's when He wanted them to write down history like Luke did in his two books: Luke and Acts. Sometimes He just let the authors write to Him—kind of like love letters to God. We call this poetry. The Book of Psalms is poetry.

READ: Psalm 23 *(Perhaps someone in class would like to read it. If there is time, you may want to discuss it a bit.)*

(3) Different Kinds
of People

God also used many different kinds of people to write His Bible. They had many different walks of life. Some were famous, and some were not. He even used ordinary people just like us.

QUESTION: Can you name some of the kinds of people God used to write His Bible, or maybe some of the kinds of jobs they did? *(Farmers, shepherds, fishermen, tax collectors, kings, disciples, Israelites, enemies who turned to God (Paul), and even a reporter (Luke)).*

b. When was it written?

Some say that the Bible is a very old book. This is true. Some of the Bible's books are much older than the others. But this doesn't make it old-fashioned. Remember that God is timeless, and so is His ways.

QUESTION: How old do you think the oldest books of the Bible are? *(About 4000 years)*

QUESTION: How old do you think the newest books of the Bible are? *About 2000 years)*

Everyone knows that they didn't have computers or printing presses to put the books together with back then. So how did they do it? They had people called "scribes" to copy the books perfectly. They couldn't make a mistake, or they had to throw the copy away. That's why copies we find today that are 2000 years old are the same as the ones that are much older. They didn't look like books then. They were written on rolls called "scrolls".

READ: Jeremiah 36:32

Christians finally decided to put them all of the books together in one book about 1600 years ago. We call it a funny name for a book. We call the Bible "The Canon" because that means *several books put together*. Today we just call it The Bible. That's a whole lot simpler.

3. Is The Bible Real?

The real question for us today is this:

QUESTION: Is the Bible real, or is it just made-up stories—like fairytales? (*Real!*)

QUESTION: How do we know the Bible is real and not just made-up stories? (*Allow the children to respond. This may be the first time someone has ever challenged them on the validity of the Bible*)

There are lots of ways that we can know that the Bible is more real than any other book. Let's see how we did on our questions.

a. Our History

Did you know that the Bible is the history book of all mankind? It's true. The Bible is not the only Book that talks about Jesus. A man named Josephus talked about some of the amazing miracles that happened when Jesus was crucified on the cross. He even talks about Jesus dying on the cross too. Pilot, the man who gave Jesus over to be crucified, also wrote about some of these things. So the Bible is not the only book that talks about the same things in Jesus' time. But the Bible is the only book that is written by God's chosen people. So we can say that historically, the Bible is true.

<p>b. Doing It Proves It!</p>	<p>Did you know that just by doing what the Bible says proves it is true? If something works, then it is true. If something doesn't work, then it is not true. You can't send electricity down a plastic wire. It has to be metal. Electricity has to have metal that will conduct the electricity. This is true. When you do what the Bible says, then you will find out that what it says is true too. When we do the things that the Bible says, then things will also go well for us. We get good things from God, while the world just gets bad junk.</p>
<p>c. God Speaks Through His Word</p>	<p>God will actually speak to us when we read His Word. God will show us something we need in it, and then we will know that He is trying to show us that He wants to change our lives. When a teacher teaches you God's Word, you will be changed because of what is said.</p>
<p>d. Time Says God's Word is True</p>	<p>Even time says God's word is true. We just entered a new millennium in the year 2000.</p> <p>QUESTION: Does anyone know what event the year 2000 is measured from? <i>(It is when Jesus came and saved us from our sins!)</i></p> <p>There are a lot of people who do not want to say this is true, but you can't escape it! From Jesus' time, everything is measured backward in BC years. BC means "Before Christ." There is no other time when the measure of time has been changed like that.</p>
<p>4. Why Would God Give Us The Bible?</p>	<p>We can see this book called the Bible is very special—and powerful. If we do what it says, we can go to heaven, see people healed, set free from trouble, and see the devil get stomped right into the ground. No other book can say that it has all that going for it!</p> <p>QUESTION: So why did God give us such a book like the Bible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So we can learn about him and his ways. • So we won't make the same mistakes that others have made. • So we can see how God is: loving, kind, generous, slow to get mad. <p>So we could be saved.</p>

5. What Do We Do With The Bible?

So we have this wonderful book, and we trust what it says for a lot of good reasons. There are many more than we have discussed today.

QUESTION: Now that we have the Bible, what do we do with it?

- Read it!
- Study and learn it
- Do what it says
- Use it
- Memorize it
- Uncover its “secret messages” that God wants all Christians to know
- Allow God’s Word to change us

6. Close With Prayer

There is no better way to prove that God’s Word is true than seeing someone come to Christ because of it. If there are any children in your class that are not saved, then you should give them the opportunity. Ask them who would like to see God’s Word come true in their lives by asking Jesus into their heart.

Pray over the children that God would show them something from the Bible this week. Pray in class that God will do miracles this week. Tell the children to expect exactly that. Also tell them to come to class next week ready to share anything that God shows them from the Bible this week.

After The Fact!

After your lesson, try this fun exercise. It's a Bible drill! Before class, choose some common verses, and have the children look them up (John 3:16, Romans 10:9,10, etc.). Select about twenty-five. Only you know your class. Make the level of difficulty fit the children. The object is for the students to be able to find the verses—not stump them.

Make sure that the children know that they have to look up the verse even if they have it memorized. The idea is to develop their ability and use of the Bible. You can form teams, or just do it on an individual basis—each man for himself. It's good to have extra Bibles on hand for this, but remind the children to bring their Bibles for something fun the week prior.

Just have the first person to find the verse to put their hand in the air. That way you will know exactly who is really first. Let the first person then read the verse. Give a piece of candy every time they get a verse first. One good thing about teams is that no one gets left out. If only one person on a team gets the verse first, then the whole team can get a piece of candy. Otherwise, you can have a separate round *without* your “brains” included in the round. Another variation can be where you have the advanced students in a separate round while the other children watch, and then the others in a different round while the advanced students watch. The idea is to tailor it to your class in order to get the most out of it, with a minimum of hurt feelings.

You can even do this with Bible books. The first one to find the book wins a round. You can even say the name of a Bible book and have someone tell you if it is an Old Testament or New Testament Book.

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