

LESSON PLAN

THE WAY WE GOT THE BIBLE--PART I

Exodus 24; 1 Corinthians 2; 2 Peter 1; Romans 1-3

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 119:11 - "Your Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Lesson Aim: Show children the way God gave us the Bible and why He gave it to us.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): One day Johnny's dad was packing his suitcase. He was going away on a business trip. Johnny watched his dad putting the clothes in the suitcase in neat piles. Soon the suitcase was nearly full. "Good," said Dad. "There is just enough space left in this corner."

"What are you going to put in that corner, Dad?" Johnny asked.

"Oh, I am going to pack my breakfast, lunch and dinner ---" "But Dad," Johnny interrupted, "How can you ever do that? There is only a tiny space." Johnny's eyes were very big. (You may want to pause here to let children guess how Johnny's father was going to put his breakfast, lunch and dinner in that little space in his suitcase.) "Why, it's easy, John," his dad smiled. "The food that I need for breakfast, lunch and dinner is in my Bible. God's Word keeps my heart/soul strong and healthy throughout the day." Do you feed your heart/soul with God's Word as often as you feed your body with food? If you memorize Bible verses, review them through the day and live by them, you will be feeding your heart many times a day. Do this in addition to reading the Bible every day and you will keep your heart strong and healthy.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse for today is Psalm 119:11. It tells us we must hide God's Word in our hearts so we do not sin against Him. So how do we hide God's Word in our hearts? We might think that we do it by memorizing His Word. That is an excellent way to get it into our minds, which is important, but it takes more than memorization to hide His Word in our hearts. What else has to be done? We must take the words that we memorize and determine by God's help to change our lives and the way we think to agree with His Word. When we live and think like the Bible says, we will never sin against God. If you do what this verse says, the Lord Jesus will use you in a mighty way.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. This morning we are going to learn the way we got the Bible and why we got the Bible. "He (God) spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began: that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all that hate us" (Luke 1:70-71).

I. WAY WE GOT OUR BIBLE – God spoke by holy prophets to give us the Bible (Luke 1:70).

A. Moses Met with God – Exodus 24

God called Moses to the top of Mt Sinai to tell Moses exactly how to build the tabernacle so it would teach us His way of salvation. Moses wrote all of these instructions in a scroll and they are found in Exodus 25-31. This is one example of several meetings that God had with Moses. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible (Genesis-Deuteronomy) as God spoke to him. Do you know why Satan does not want you to believe Genesis 1-11? (It tells us the truth about creation and that evolution is a lie. It also tells us how the earth was changed in a year by a world-wide flood and not over billions of years as unbelievers say.)

After Moses' first meeting with God on the top of Mt Sinai, God gave Moses something to carry back to the people. Do you know what it was? The answer is found in Exodus 31:18.

B. Prophets Heard from God – 2 Pet 1:20-21

After Moses died, God used holy men, who were led by the Spirit, to write the history of Israel. Let's find the book of Joshua, the first of the history books. (After they find Joshua, have them look for Esther, the last of the history books in our Bibles.). Joshua to Esther are the history books that tell us how God dealt with Israel. Then we have the poetry books of the Bible (Job-Song of Solomon). Can anyone tell me who wrote most of the Psalms? (David) God gave messages to holy prophets to preach against the sins of people and about the coming of Jesus to save us from our sins and to rule over the entire earth. The writings of these prophets begin with Isaiah and end with Malachi in the Old Testament. Let's find Isaiah in our Bibles. (After they find Isaiah, have them find Malachi.)

LESSON PLAN

C. Apostles Walked with the Son of God – 2 Pet 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-5

Peter, John and James were on a mountain when they saw Jesus transfigured before them in gleaming white clothes talking with Moses and Elijah. Peter wanted to honor all three of them, but a cloud covered them and God spoke, telling them that Jesus was His Son and they were to hear Him; they were to give close attention to His words. These three and the other twelve disciples learned many things from the life and teachings of Jesus. Matthew and John wrote some of what they learned in their Gospels. Mark probably wrote what Peter told him about Jesus (Mark was his son in the faith - 1 Pet 5:13). Luke wrote to a friend what he had learned about Jesus Christ from several eyewitnesses (Lk 1:: 1-4). This is the way we got the Gospel story of our gracious Lord (Matthew-John).

The story is told of a man who lived very wickedly. One day, while traveling, he stayed in a motel. The first morning when he woke up, he saw a Gospel of John on the bed table. Angrily he threw it on the floor. The second morning the same thing happened. On the third morning he picked up the book and took it with him to a park. He read how Jesus had healed a lame man, fed thousands of people, and raised Lazarus from the dead. He saw how kind Jesus was to sinners and sick people. Finally, the man read how Jesus had died. It broke his heart and right there in the park he asked Jesus to be his Savior. Now that same man lives a different life. He buys Gospels of John and gives them to people. He tells them how the Lord Jesus changed his life.

Near the end of John's life, the Roman ruler exiled John to the barren Island of Patmos for his faith in Christ. God sent an angel to John to reveal the glory of Christ to him, the condition of seven churches that Jesus judged and some end time events. This is how we got Revelation.

D. Paul Learned from the Spirit of God – 1 Cor 2:9-14

Paul tells how he and other writers wrote letters to churches and individuals (1 Cor 2:9-14). God revealed His thoughts to them by the Spirit; the Holy Spirit taught the writers what to put in their letters. That is the way God gave us Romans to Jude.

Luke also wrote a history of the early church to his friend by talking to eyewitnesses and by taking careful notes while travelling with Paul. That is how we got the book of Acts.

WE: We should thank God for giving us the Bible so we can know the truth, which will set us free from the lies and myths of unsaved people. As we obey the parts of the Bible that we understand, the Holy Spirit will show us more. (Ask the children to name some Bible commands that they understand and need to obey such as Eph 6:1; Jam 5:11; 1 Pet 5:7; 1 Jn 4:11)

E. The Bible Preserved by the Sovereignty of God – Mt 24:35

God has promised to preserve His Word. The heavens above and the earth beneath us will pass away, but His words will not pass away. Jeremiah wrote a message from God to Judah and its king about the judgment that was coming to them if they did not repent. King Jehoiakim burned the scroll that Jeremiah had written, but God helped Jeremiah to write the message again (Jer 36).

A poor woman in England was given a New Testament. She began reading it and one day accepted Jesus as her Savior. Her husband was a wicked man. He often came home drunk. He hated to see his wife reading the Bible because it made him feel guilty. One night when the man came home drunk and saw his wife reading the little New Testament again, he became so angry that he grabbed it from her and threw it into the stove to burn it. The next morning when the man opened the stove and was just about to begin stirring the cinders, he noticed a page from the burned Bible. His eye fell on these words: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away." The man stopped and stood very still. He felt sorry that he had tried to burn God's Word. Soon after that he became a Christian.

Another example of God's protection of His Word happened to Adoniram Judson. Judson worked very hard translating the Bible into the language of Burma (Myanmar). He had just finished the New Testament when he was taken to prison. His wife knew that if the leaders found the Bible, they would destroy it. First she buried it in the ground. Then realizing that if she left it there it would decay, she decided to try another plan. She put the New Testament into a roll of cotton and brought it to Dr. Judson as a pillow. She made the pillow so hard and poor that the guard would not want to take it. After 7 months, a guard took this very special pillow containing God's Word away from Dr. Judson. His wife quickly made a new and better one. When the guard saw that, he gave Judson the old pillow back and took the new one.

LESSON PLAN

A long time afterward, Judson was taken to another prison leaving everything behind him. The old pillow was tossed into the prison yard as trash. But one of the native Christians happened to see it and took it home as a souvenir of the missionary. Much, much later, the manuscript was found at the Christian's home. It was still safely wrapped in the cotton. Don't you think God worked to save that New Testament? Dr. Judson had spent many years of hard work translating it. God wanted it to be read by many Burmese people to teach them about Jesus.

II. WHY WE GOT OUR BIBLE – God gave us the Bible to save us from our enemies (Luke 1:71).

A. People's Hearts Were Darkened – Rom 1:18-21

God loves the people that He made and wants to be close to them. But He cannot be close to them with their sin, because He is holy and the brightness of His glory would destroy them. The people knew something about God, but they did not glorify Him as God, so their foolish heart was darkened. They must hear the Word of God to bring light into their darkened heart. This is the way they can get rid of their sin.

John Wesley was stopped by a highway robber as he rode his horse to a meeting. The man threatened Mr. Wesley and demanded, "Your money or your life." Mr. Wesley handed over his money. Then he said, "Sir, may I say a word to you? Some day you may be very sorry for the way you are spending your life. When you are, remember this: 'The blood of Jesus Christ...cleanses from...all sin.'" Without a word the robber rode away.

A long time afterward as Wesley was leaving a church where he had been preaching, a stranger came up and introduced himself. He was the man who had robbed John Wesley. The verse that Mr. Wesley had given him had troubled his conscience until finally he had gone to a pastor and asked how he could know Jesus Christ. Since that day his life had completely changed. He was now serving the Lord.

B. People's Minds Were Blinded – Rom 1:22-23

The people became so blind regarding God that they made images of Him that looked like a man and like birds and beasts and even creatures that crawl on the ground. Any image of God is false, because God is a spirit and no image can be made of a spirit. That is why God forbids anyone to make an image of Him.

WE: We are not to make an image of God. All false religions make an image of their god and worship it. The people of India make millions of images that they worship. Our minds are blinded when we worship a cross or the image of Jesus or Mary. Jesus said we are to worship God in spirit and truth (Jn 4:23-24).

C. God Let People Suffer for Their Sin – Rom 1:24-28-32

Since sinners love their sins, God will give them over to the terrible results of their sins in this life.

D. God Judged People for Their Sin – Rom 2:1-16; 3:19

The result of sin is not limited to this life; God will judge them according to truth (Rom 2:2), to their deeds (Rom 2:6), to the law (Rom 2:12) and according to the Gospel (Rom 2:16) See Rev 20:11-15.

E. God Provided People Salvation from Their Sin – Rom 3:21-28; 6:23

God provided one way for sinners to be saved from their sins. He sent His Son to pay the penalty for their sins when He died on the cross. Those who receive Him as their Savior will become the children of God (Jn 1:12) and have eternal life. It is a gift of God worth untold billions of dollars (Rom 6:23).

BE (for Action): Most of you have Bibles, but they will not help you until you read them, study and memorize verses in the Bible. God will bless you if you will hide His Word in your hearts. Who will try to read God's Word for at least a few minutes each day this week? Who will work hard to learn the memory verse? Let's pray and ask the Lord to help us to read and memorize His Word each day this week and then obey it.

The story is told of a group of Christians who, fearing that their Bibles might be taken, decided to memorize the whole Bible. Each Christian took a book or a part of a book (i.e., one man took Genesis, another Exodus; one took Ps 1-75, another 76 to 150, etc.). They worked very hard. Finally, they had memorized the whole Bible among them. When they met as a group, they began to call each other by their Bible names – for instance, if you had memorized Romans, your name would be, "Romans". They were serious about keeping God's Word, so they could hide it in their hearts.