

LESSON PLAN

THE BLESSINGS OF THE BIBLE – PART II

Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 119:105 - "Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."

Lesson Aim: To teach children different ways the Holy Spirit will use the Bible to change their lives.

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

NOTE TO TEACHERS: If there is too much material to teach in one lesson, teach it in two lessons or choose the parts of the lesson that best fit the needs of your students.

KEY (for Attention): How many of you have been in a big cave? (Let children share their experiences.) Let's pretend that you are going to explore a big cave all by yourself. You will leave home and go to a lonely mountain area where only a few people live. Then the trip up the mountain begins. You have been given directions on how to find the cave. You wonder, "What will I find inside the cave?" The decision is made to find out, so you take from your backpack a spool of strong fishing line that you tie to a nearby tree. The line is to help you find your way back to the mouth of the cave in case you get lost in the tunnels of the cave. Then you get your big battery-operated lantern out of your backpack and into the cave you go. Shining your light far ahead, you find that the cave is much bigger than you thought. Carefully you inch farther and farther until, looking back, you can't even see the place where you came into the cave. Suddenly you trip on a rock and fall flat on your face. Your lantern flies out of your hand into a deep hole. You can see the light at the bottom of the hole, but it is too deep to reach it. When you sit up, you realize that the rope is no longer tight. You pull it and it comes closer to you - that means it must have broken in your fall or come undone from the tree. At first, you are afraid in the blackness of the cave. You don't know what to do. You think hard and try to stay calm. Maybe there is something in your backpack that will help you to get back out of this dark cave with deep holes into which you could fall. You take off your backpack and open it to feel what you might find inside of it. You can feel your pocketknife, a cup, a canteen filled with water and some sandwiches and little jars of food. Then you feel one other item in the backpack. You can hardly believe it is there. It makes you very happy. What was it that made you so happy? Would it be a small radio, a bell, a small flashlight, a cell phone or something else? (Let the children give their choices and the reason for their choice. Those that chose the flashlight would be right. It would put light on the path so he could safely get out of the cave.)

HE (for Authority): The flashlight in the story connects with our Bible memory verse. Let's open our Bibles to Psalm 119:105. It says, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." Does anyone know how God's Word is like a lamp? (Allow students to answer.) The Bible is like a lamp because it puts light on our path. As we do things each day, it is like we are walking on a path. When you play with your friends, you are walking on this path. When you go to school, you are walking on this path. Even when you are sitting down in church and listening to your pastor, you are on this path. The Bible is like a lamp that gives light on your path so that you will make the right decisions. The Bible will give you light to find Jesus as your Savior. Then it will give you light so you will know how to please God and not stumble into sin. Just as a flashlight can help you to find your way out of a dark cave, so the Bible can help you to find the way to be saved from your sins and how to live so that you can please God. That is why the Bible is the most important book in the world.

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. In addition to being like a lamp, we are going to learn other things that the Bible is like. (Teachers can find or draw simple pictures of a lamp, a sword, a mirror, etc. and use them as they go over each part of the lesson to help the children relate to the lesson.)

I. - The Bible is Like Fire – Jer 23:29

Fire can hurt us or it can help us. It will hurt us if we are caught in a forest fire. It will help us if we are cooking our meal at a camp fire. The Bible warns unbelievers of the Lake of Fire; if they do not turn away from their sin and receive Jesus as their Savior, they will be cast into this lake to suffer forever. The Bible also warns believers that their works will be tried by fire to see who receives a reward. If their works were for selfish reasons, their works will be burned up and they will lose their reward. If their works were done to lift up Jesus Christ, their works will remain and they will be rewarded (1 Cor 3:13-15).

WE: We need to respect the power of God's Word as a fire to hurt us or help us.

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II. The Bible is Like a Hammer – Jer 23:29

A carpenter's hammer can be used to build a house. A different kind of hammer is used to break rocks. The Word of God is like a hammer that breaks hard rocks. It breaks in pieces the hard hearts of the enemies of God. He also can use the Bible to break the hard hearts of believers who refuse to repent of their sin. He promises to discipline them and it will be painful, but afterwards it will produce the fruit of peace (Heb 12:11).

WE: We need to listen to God's Word so He will not have to discipline us for our hard hearts.

III The Bible is Like Water – Eph 5:26

Water can be used for drinking or can be used for cleansing. In Ephesians the Word of God is used to cleanse the Church of Jesus Christ, so that it is spotless, holy and without blemish. The Bible cleanses our minds and lives like water washes our hands, feet and whole bodies. When we see our sin while reading the Bible, we need to confess it at that moment. God will wash our heart clean. That is how God's Word will cleanse our minds and then it will fill our minds with good thoughts and desires (Phil 4:8).

WE: We are cleansed by the Bible when we obey it. We need to hear it, read it, memorize it and study it, but our lives cannot be purified by it until we apply it to our lives and live by it.

IV. The Bible is Like a Mirror –Jam 1:22-25

God uses His Word as a mirror to show us what we look like in His eyes. Even after you are saved, you will sin and come short of what the Lord wants you to be. Just as a mirror shows dirt on your face, God's Word will show you the sin in your life.

When Queen Elizabeth became old, it troubled her to see that the wrinkles on her face were getting longer and deeper. One artist who worked for the government designed a coin with the Queen's face on it. Unfortunately, the coin looked so much like the Queen – wrinkles and all – that she was angry. She ordered that the mold be destroyed. Today only one marred coin of that type is in existence. Queen Elizabeth's maids of honor, realizing how the Queen felt about her wrinkles, removed all mirrors from the palace. A magazine printed during Queen Elizabeth's time says that she "had not the heart to look herself in the face for the last twenty years of her life!"

WE: We can remove the sin spots in our souls, even if we cannot change the flaws on our face. When we read the Bible and it shows us sin in our lives, we do not have to live with that sin. If we confess our sin to God and turn from it, He will remove it from our lives so we can be more like Jesus Christ. .

V. The Bible is Like Milk – 1 Pet 2:2

God wants you to look at your Bible as a baby looks at milk. (Children who have baby brothers or sisters know how important milk is to a baby.) Just as a baby needs milk for food, so a Christian needs the Word of God for food to feed his soul. How can a Christian feed his soul with the Bible? He needs to know it and then live by it. God's Word strengthens our souls like milk strengthens our bodies.

A teacher that taught in China asked her class one morning if anyone had not eaten breakfast that morning. She wanted to find out if any student was from a very poor home so she could help the family. One boy, Po Ming, who was 9 years old, raised his hand. The teacher was puzzled. She knew that Po Ming's family had a nice home and enough money to eat well. "Why didn't you eat breakfast, Po Ming?" the teacher asked. Po Ming explained that in his family they always had their spiritual food first. The teacher did not understand. "Well," Po Ming explained, "We think the Bible is more important than regular breakfast because it feeds our souls. And this morning I got up late, so I only had time to feed my soul!"

How many of us would be willing to put our Bible reading ahead of our breakfast? That seems hard, but it is a good discipline for us to develop. It really is more important to begin each day with the Bible than it is to eat our breakfast.

WE: We should start every morning by reading the Bible to prepare our minds and hearts to do God's will.

VI. The Bible is Like a Sword – Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12

God's Word is like a sword that can defeat Satan so you do not have to sin. That is how Jesus defeated the temptations of Satan (Matt 4:1-11). When you use God's Word in telling others about Jesus, the Holy Spirit will use His Word to convict them of their sin and their need to have Jesus as their Savior. Your own words will not have the power to defeat Satan's grip on their lives. You must give them God's Word. "Take the

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sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God" (Eph 6:17). The Bible is the weapon God has given you to use in defeating Satan and in bringing others to Jesus.

Some people say they do not believe the Bible. What should we do in talking to these kinds of people? Should we just forget witnessing to them since they say they don't believe God's Word? No! We should tell them what the Bible says anyway and trust the Spirit to use His Word as a sword in their lives. Let's pretend someone says he is going to kill you. Now, let's say you have a big sharp sword in your hand and you tell him that you are going to use it, if he tries to kill you. If the person laughs at you and says, "I don't believe that sword will hurt me," should you put your sword away and let him kill you? No! You would not care what he says or thinks about your sword. You would use it whether he is afraid of it or not. So it is with the Bible. Use it and it will be effective in defeating Satan. God's Word will overpower Satan because God said so and Jesus proved it when He was tempted.

A famous Christian doctor was once traveling by train from one city to another. A young man sat down beside him, and they began to talk. Before long, Dr. Malan began telling the young man about Jesus. The young man laughed. "Sir," he said, "I do not believe the Bible." He began to tell Dr. Malan his views. But Dr. Malan, who knew his Bible and had much Scripture hidden in his heart, simply answered all the young man's arguments with the Bible.

Suddenly the young man shouted, "Sir! I told you, I do not believe your Bible. Why do you keep quoting it to me?" Dr. Malan's only answer was another verse, "If you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sins." The young man, very upset, got up and walked away.

Years later, the doctor received a letter from this young man. The letter read, "You took the Sword of the Spirit and stabbed me through and through." The young man had become a Christian. He had found that he was not arguing with Dr. Malan, but with God.

WE: We must faithfully use the Bible as a sword and share the Gospel with others (Isa 55:11).

BE (for Action): Alexander Duff was on his way to India where he was to serve as a missionary. He went to India by ship. Twice the ship he was on came into great storms and was wrecked. The second time the ship was wrecked, he was just off the coast of India, only a few miles from the place where he was going to live. Alexander had been a very good student. He had studied very hard to get ready to go to India to work for the Lord. He had saved his money and used it to buy books. Alexander had 800 books in his library. He loved his books very much. When the storm struck the ship and smashed it upon the shore, he lost all of them.

All the people got safely to land, but their belongings were gone. Everything they owned was gone.

Alexander stood on the shore watching to see if anything might be floating near the wreck. Suddenly he saw something very small on the water. He shrugged. It was so small that it was probably not worth saving. But the little package washed up on the shore and Alexander discovered it was his very own Bible. He thought of his 800 books and thought it amazing that out of all 800 only his Bible was saved. "God," thought Alexander Duff, "is teaching me a lesson. As I start out here in India serving Him, He has left me with the Book that will help me the most. I must share the Bible with others." With that, Alexander went back to the others, and opening the Bible to Psalms he began to read and comfort them.

Alexander Duff spent many years in India using his Bible for the Lord. God used him to lead many Indian people to Christ.

How was the Bible used in Alexander's life? God used it as a mirror to show him his sin--he was placing too much importance on books--men's words, and not enough on the Bible--God's Word. God used the Bible as a lamp through Alexander's preaching and teaching to help people find Christ as their Savior. He used it as a sword to convict Indian people of their sin so they would receive Jesus as their Savior.

How can God's Word work in your life? He might use it as a mirror to show you when you have done wrong; as a lamp to show light on the path God wants you to take; as a sword to defeat Satan in your life; as water to cleanse your mind from sinful thoughts; as a hammer to smash your hard heart; as fire to purify you so Christ can reward you! (As you name these objects, you could hold up the pictures you used in the SEE and WE sections.) Close by asking the children to pray and ask God to use the Bible in their lives this week and throughout their lives.