



Lesson #3

What is the Bible?



Scripture Reference: 2 Timothy 3:16-17



Goal: We believe in the Bible.

Bible stories play an important role in laying the foundation for the spiritual lives of children. But the Bible is much more than a glorified storybook. It is the *Word of God* given to us in concrete form. This lesson is designed to help the children understand that in addition to its faith-building stories, the Bible is packed with God's instructions for how we should live each day. By taking part in the interactive activities listed, the students will also be introduced to the practice of spending time in His Word daily.



Opening Activity:

(For this activity, you will need a copy of the attached recipe for Peanut Butter Balls, the ingredients to make that recipe, a large bowl, measuring cups and spoons, a wooden spoon, cookie sheets, aprons, plastic sandwich bags, and Wet Ones *optional*.)

As the children enter the classroom, ask them to go to the restroom to wash their hands. When everyone is back, have the students work together to mix the peanut butter batter. They may take turns adding ingredients and stirring. As the batter gets stiffer, they may simply want to mix it with their hands. Then show them how to roll the batter into walnut-sized balls and lay them on cookie sheets. Allow the children to each eat one Peanut Butter Ball now. The rest should be set aside to dry. Hands will probably need to be washed again, or you may choose to provide a container of Wet Ones.

Say: As you were making the Peanut Butter Balls, how did you know what ingredients to add? How important was it for you to follow the recipe? What would have happened if you hadn't followed the recipe? Where do you usually find recipes? A cookbook is like an instruction book. It instructs or teaches us how to prepare different foods.

Just as we need an instruction book to tell us how to cook, we need an instruction book to tell us how God wants us to live. God has given us such a book. What instruction book has God given us? Last week we learned that a denomination is a group of churches who believe the same things. Our church is part of a denomination called the Churches of God, General Conference. Today we'll learn what our denomination believes about the Bible.



Bible Experience:

(For this activity, you will need a blackboard, chalk, an eraser, and Bibles.

Ahead of time, draw a gallows and the following blanks on the blackboard to play a game of Hangman:

-----, -----, -----
----- 2 ----- 3:16

The puzzle as solved would read "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16")

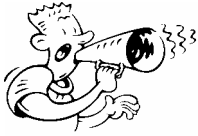
Gather the children around the blackboard to play a game of Hangman. Allow the children to take turns guessing letters. If a letter is called that appears in the verse, write it in *all* of the appropriate blanks. If it does not appear in the verse, draw a body part (i.e. head the first time, then trunk, arms, legs, facial features) to form a stick figure. When all the letters have been filled in the blanks, read the verse aloud to the children, then read it aloud as a group.

Ask: **What is Scripture? What do you think it means when it says, "All Scripture is God-breathed"?** *God placed His words into the hearts and minds of the men He chose to write them down.* **What are some things we can learn from the Bible? What does it mean to rebuke or correct someone? How does the Bible do this? What does it mean to be righteous?**

What type of punctuation do you usually see at the end of a sentence? *period*
What kind of punctuation do you see at the end of this verse? *comma* **This comma tells us that the sentence isn't finished; it continues into the next verse. Let's look up the next verse in our Bibles.**

Have the children look up 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in their Bibles. Have someone read both verses together. Say: **God uses the Bible to teach us, to rebuke us, to correct us and to**

train us. **Why? Our denomination believes the Bible is the true Word of God, and we should look to it to see how God wants us to live.**



Life Application:

(For this activity, you will need a copy of the attached *A Week with Jesus* devotional paper for each child and pencils.)

Say: **We've learned that our denomination believes the Bible is the true Word of God, and we should look to it to see how God wants us to live. We can do this by coming to church where we are taught from the Bible. But we can also do it at home by taking time to read the Bible there each day.**

Hand out *A Week with Jesus* paper. Say: **The left-hand column on the paper you just received has a Bible passage for you to read each day this week. After you read the passage, answer the questions in the right-hand column. Bring your completed paper to Sunday School next week.**

Have the children write their names on their papers and lay them in a place where they will remember to take them home. You may choose to award the children who return their completed papers next week with a small token, such as a piece of candy attached to the verse, "How sweet are your promises to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103 NIV)



Closing Activity:

(For this activity, you will need a ball of Play-Dough for each child.)

Gather the children around the table. Say: **We've been talking about the Bible today, how it is the true Word of God and how we can learn from it. The Bible is full of stories to teach us about God. What are some of the stories you can remember?** Brainstorm story ideas; then give each child a ball of Play-Dough. Ask each child to secretly choose a favorite story and create something with his/her Play-Dough having to do with the story (i.e. for Moses in the bulrushes, they might make a baby in a basket). When finished, allow the children to guess each other's stories.

Say: **These all are important stories in the Bible, stories that help us to learn what God is like. What are some things we've learned about God from these stories? There are many other stories in the Bible also. Of all the stories in the Bible, our**

denomination believes the *most* important message or story is the Good News. God's Son, Jesus, died on the cross to forgive our sins and came back to life again, so we too may live in Heaven with Him forever.

Before dismissing the children, say: **The Bible is God's instruction book to us; in it He tells us how He wants us to live. Remember to read your Bibles this week as you complete *A Week with Jesus*.**

Recipe for Peanut Butter Balls

- 1/2 cup melted margarine (1 stick)**
- 3/4 cup peanut butter**
- 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar**
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla**

Mix ingredients together and shape into walnut-sized balls.

A Week with Jesus

These are words and stories Jesus told people to help them know how He wanted them to live. They teach us how He wants us to live, also.

Day of the Week	Bible Passage	Questions
Sunday	Luke 6:27-31	<p>How are we to treat others, even if they treat us badly?</p> <p>Who is someone you will try to be nice to this week?</p>
Monday	Matthew 7:24-27	<p>Who is like a wise man?</p> <p>Who is like a foolish man?</p> <p>Which will you be?</p>
Tuesday	Matthew 5:14-16	<p>What does it mean to let your light shine?</p> <p>How can you let your light shine at school?</p>
Wednesday	Luke 10:25-37	<p>Who was a good neighbor to the injured man in this story?</p> <p>How can you be a good neighbor to someone today?</p>
Thursday	Luke 17:11-19	<p>How did Jesus feel when only one man came back to thank Him?</p> <p>What will you thank Jesus for today?</p>
Friday	Luke 15:11-24	<p>How is God like the father in this story?</p> <p>What do you need to ask God to forgive you for?</p>
Saturday	Matthew 19:13-15	<p>What did Jesus do when the disciples tried to send the children away?</p> <p>How do you feel knowing you are important to Jesus?</p>