

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

There are 66 books in the Bible, and God wants us to know them all.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn how many books are in the Bible (66), how many are in the Old Testament (39) and how many are in the New Testament (27).

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalms 119:11, Matthew 4:1-10, Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

MEMORY VERSE:

*"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."
Proverbs 30:5 NIV*

SUMMARY:

Jesus is always the example we look towards for how to live life. One of the first stories recorded about Jesus shows us that Jesus took time to learn and memorize Scripture. Because of that, Jesus was able to use the verses he had memorized to fight off temptation! One of the ways we can be like Jesus and begin to store God's Word in our heart is by knowing what God has included in the Bible and where we can find it.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the Bible and all of its books.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

“Every word of God is perfect. He is like a shield to those who trust in him. He keeps them safe.” Proverbs 30:5 (NirV)

“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.” Proverbs 30:5 NIV

“Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection.” Proverbs 30:5 (NLT)

“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.” Proverbs 30:5 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have the kids read the verse together. Read it normally, then in a whisper, then really, really loud!

SMALL GROUP:

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to this series.

SKIT

SIXTY-SIX BOOKS IN ONE!

ITEMS NEEDED:

A chair
A carpet bag
A Bible

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Phil - A door to door salesman
Mary - An unsuspecting customer

Mary is sitting in a chair. A doorbell rings off stage.

MARY: Come in!

Phil enters, carrying a large carpet bag.

PHIL: Good afternoon, madam! Apologies for the intrusion, but once you realize why I am here, believe me, you will thank me.

MARY: I will?

PHIL: Allow me to introduce myself. Phil Testament. I'm with the International Association of Bible Enthusiasts. And you are?

MARY: Mary.

PHIL: Ah, a biblical name! It's a sign.

MARY: A sign of what?

SKIT

PHIL: That I am in the right place. Madam, have you ever heard of the Bible?

MARY: Why, yes.

PHIL: Of course you have. Why it's the single greatest best seller in the history of history itself! When Gutenberg invented the printing press, it was the first book he printed. It's a must have! An essential for every library. Madam, you need a Bible.

MARY: I do?

PHIL: *(pulls a Bible out of his bag)* Don't you know what the Bible is?

MARY: Well, I—

PHIL: It's the Word of God. It's God's message to all of us, written down over the centuries by great heroes of the faith!

MARY: But I really don't need a—

PHIL: Of course you need one, madam. You need this book more than any other.

MARY: But I—

PHIL: Madam, don't you know this isn't just one book? It's sixty-six books in one! Sixty-six books broken up into two Testaments. 39 books of the Old Testament teach us that God made the world, that we messed up the world, and that God had a plan to save us. Then 27 more books in the New Testament show us how God saved the world and how we should live in the light of this amazing new knowledge!

MARY: That's all very—

PHIL: Shocking. Amazing. Unbelievable. I know, and it's also all true! Madam, I want you to sit tight. I want you to let me unfold to you what you'll find in this book, from Genesis to Revelation and all points in between including Philemon!

MARY: What are you saying?

SKIT

PHIL: Madam, I will not leave this house until you know all the books of the Bible!

Phil picks up his bag.

PHIL: Do you have a guest room?

MARY: A guest room?

PHIL: Sixty-six books in one, madam! This is going to take a while!

Phil exits.

MARY: Oh my!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A stack of 66 books in two stacks: 39 and 27.

Can anyone guess how many books are in these stacks? There are 66 books total - the same number as we find in the Bible. These books have many different stories and topics. The books of the Bible all center on one story: the story of God and humankind.

Over the next 12 weeks we're going to teach you about these books: 39 from the Old Testament, and 27 from the New. We're going to learn what their names are, where to find them in the Bible, and how they all come together to teach us about God.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

There are 66 books in the Bible, and God wants us to know them all.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn how many books are in the Bible (66), how many are in the Old Testament (39) and how many are in the New Testament (27).

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalms 119:11, Matthew 4:1-10, Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

INTRO:

There are some books that are strictly entertainment. Novels, comic books, short story collections, and picture books can take us to far away places. They can take us on amazing adventures, put us in the shoes of different people, and dazzle our imaginations.

There are some books that inspire. There are self-help books and motivational books used by business people and others to help drive them toward their dreams. There are books on forming good habits, losing bad habits, and living a better life. There are books that teach us how to deal with big problems so we can be happier and wiser.

There are books filled with poetry. There are books filled with history. There are books filled with wisdom. There are books filled with knowledge. You can find thousands of books like the ones I mentioned at your local library or bookstore. But you can also find 66 books that contain adventure, far away places, inspiration, self-help tips, wisdom, poetry, history, and knowledge all in one book we call the Bible!

The Bible is many things. It is history. It is poetry. It is wisdom and inspiration. More than anything, it's a love story about a good creator God and his rebellious people. The Bible helps us understand who God is and how we can live for God, as Psalm 119:11 tells us:

READ PSALM 119:11

One person who knew the power of the Bible to help Him avoid sin was Jesus. From an early age, Jesus began studying the scriptures, and when he was older, He was able to use those scriptures to help him resist temptation.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ MATTHEW 4:1-10

MAIN POINT:

Jesus was God's Son. He could have called on a posse of angels to chase off the devil if He wanted. He didn't need it. The only weapon Jesus needed was the Bible.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword. It's a weapon against sin. It's a guide for life. It's a map to Heaven. God invites us to get to know Him through the Bible, and the more we familiarize ourselves with the Bible, the better we'll be able to understand who God is and how we can live for God!

DRIVE IT HOME:

The Bible is broken into two parts, or Testaments. The Old Testament is the first half and tells the story of God and man from Creation up until the time of Jesus. The Old Testament can be broken into sections as well. There's the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible that contain both early history and God's laws. There are the history books that tell the story of the nation of Israel and its many kings. There are books of poetry and wisdom, followed by books written by prophets, men who received and delivered messages from God to His people. All told, there are 39 books in the Old Testament.

The New Testament begins with four books that all tell the same story: the life of Jesus. These books, or gospels, all tell the story of Jesus from a different point of view. The next book, Acts, tells the story of the early church. Most of the rest of the New Testament is made up of letters written by Paul, Peter, John, and other leaders in the early church. Then there's the final book of Revelation. It's a book of prophecy about a time that has not yet taken place: the end of the world. All together, there are 27 books in the New Testament.

In the coming weeks, we're going to learn the names of these books. We're going to teach you hand motions to help you memorize them. You will be able to say where each book it's found and how it fits into the big picture story of the Bible. Our main goal, though, is to leave all of you with a better understanding of what the Bible is. It's a book about God. It's a book about us. It's a book that can help us do the right thing and resist temptation.

The Bible is not just one book. It's 66 books that teach us what we believe. Stick with us these next 12 weeks, and we're going to discover all these 66 books can teach us about God!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear Jesus,
Thank you for the Bible and all of its books.
In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What's the last book you read?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Proverbs 30:5

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to this series.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

As a group, see how many books of the Bible you can name. Does anyone already know all the books of the Bible?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Psalm 119:11

What does this verse say about the Bible?

Matthew 4:1-10

Who tried to tempt Jesus?

How did Jesus defend Himself?

How many books are in the Bible?

How many books are in the Old and New Testaments?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us about the Bible so we can learn about you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What's the last book you read?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Proverbs 30:5

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to this series.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

As a group, see how many books of the Bible you can name. Does anyone already know all the books of the Bible?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Psalm 119:11

How can the Bible help us resist sin?

Matthew 4:1-10

Why did Jesus use the Bible to defeat temptation?

How many books are in the Bible?

How many books are in the Old and New Testaments?

What do all the books of the Bible teach us?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us about the Bible so we can learn about you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

NUMBERS GAME

How many books are in the Bible?

66

How many Testaments are in the Bible?

2

How many books are in the Old Testament?

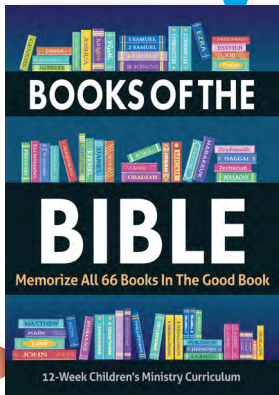
39

How many books are in the New Testament?

27

How many of these books can help us learn about God?

ALL OF THEM (66)



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Books of the Bible Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: HOW MANY BOOKS IN THE GOOD BOOK?



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Jesus is always the example we look towards for how to live life. One of the first stories recorded about Jesus shows us that Jesus took time to learn and memorize Scripture. Because of that, Jesus was able to use the verses he had memorized to fight off temptation! One of the ways we can be like Jesus and begin to store God's Word in our heart is by knowing what God has included in the Bible and where we can find it. Psalm 119:11, Matthew 4:1-10, Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids to break down the Bible by the numbers. How many books are there? How many Testaments? How many books in each Testament?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What is the Bible?
- How did Jesus use the Bible to avoid sin?
- What can the Bible teach us?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

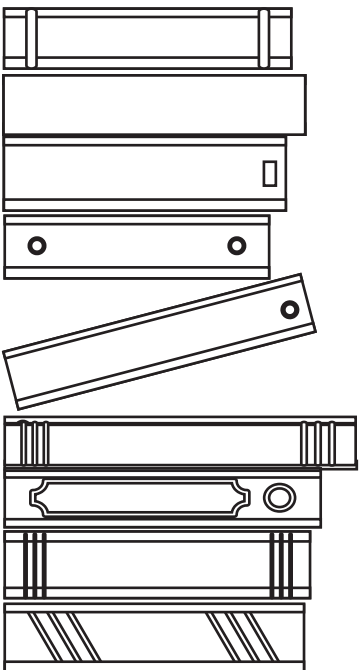
- Proverbs 30:5 NIV



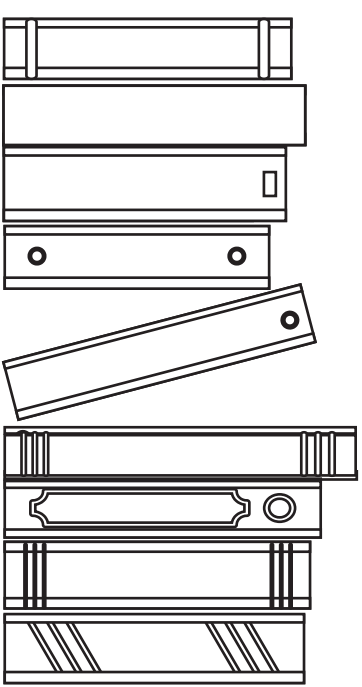
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

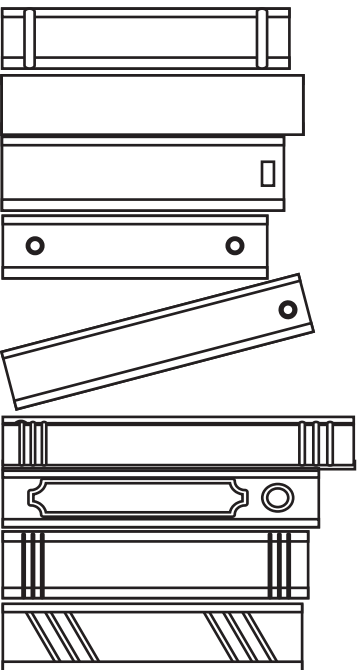
Over the next 12 weeks kids will be memorizing all the books of the Bible. Learning the books of the Bible can help us to better understand the Bible and its message: that God loves us and wants to set us free from sin!



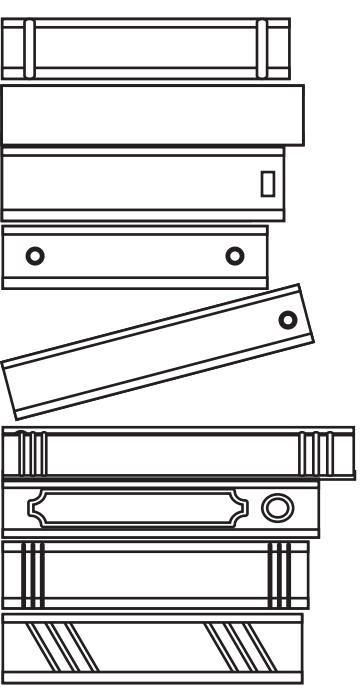
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those who take refuge in him."
- Proverbs 30:5 (NIV)



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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Give the kids a coloring sheet of a Bible, or have them make book covers for their Bibles that they can color.