

AT12t

The Bible,
Book of our Faith

Teacher

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR ADULTS

Year 1, Quarter 2

THE BIBLE, BOOK OF OUR FAITH

(Rewritten)

TEACHER'S LESSONS

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR
ADULTS
YEAR 1- QUARTER 2-(REWRITTEN)
THE BIBLE-THE BOOK OF OUR FAITH
TEACHER'S LESSONS

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How the Teacher should Prepare to Teach Each Lesson:

1. Read all the Background Scriptures. These will help you to know all the events related to today's lesson.
2. Read again the Scriptures Used in Today's Lesson. These are the specific verses you will discuss as you teach.
3. Read your Teaching Aim. Think about your pupils and how this aim applies to your students. Think about the aim as you prepare to teach. This is what you want to accomplish through your teaching of this lesson.
4. Read the Central Truth of the lesson. This is the basic truth that this lesson will teach your pupils. Think about it and apply it to your own life. Then think about your students and how it is important for them to know this truth.
5. Memorize the memory verse for the day. This will encourage your members to memorize it also.
6. Read and study all the material in the section called "Getting Ready to Teach." You will not read this material to your pupils. It is background material for you, the teacher. It will help you understand the meaning of the verses. It will give you the background knowledge necessary for teaching the lesson.
7. If possible, read the lesson from the pupils' book. This will help you know what he will know as he comes to class. His divisions are like yours, although the information he is given is not usually just the same.
8. Study the section in your lesson which is called "Teaching Plan." If you follow this plan, it will tell you just how to lead your class. It will make your job much easier. The pupils will be sure to learn the central truth of the lesson.
9. Look at the items listed under Helps for the Teacher.

Try to use these. They will be mentioned in the teaching plan.
They will add variety and interest to the lesson

10. Let students read Bible passages whenever possible. If your students cannot read, you will need to read to them.
11. On Sunday morning follow this plan:
 - 1) Welcome members and visitors. (Use no more than 2 minutes.)
 - 2) Prayer for members and visitors, the sick and troubled.
(About 2 minutes)
 - 3) Teach the lesson. (Use 45-50 minutes.)
 - 4) Hear and answer questions from pupils. (Use 5-10 minutes)
 - 5) Close in prayer.

Lesson 1: He is Risen

Teacher's Lesson

Background Scripture: Mark 15: 42-16:7; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Luke 24: 44-48

scripture used in today's lesson: Mark 15:42-16:7

Memory Verse: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57

Central Truth: Victory over sin and death is possible through faith in Jesus Christ

Teaching aim: To challenge students to claim victory over sin and death through faith in Jesus.

Helps for the teacher: A list of questions for each of two groups. (See teaching plan) Two pencils.

Getting Ready to Teach

Jesus is buried -Read Mark 15:42-47

Do you know what makes Christianity unique among the world's religions? It is the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. Only Christians serve a living Lord. Only Christians serve a God who has power over death.

Jesus Christ, the son of God, died on the cross. His friends wanted to give him a proper burial. Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent Jewish leader, asked the Roman governor for his body. He must have been a wealthy man. He had a place ready to be used to bury Jesus. He wanted to see that Jesus was given the honour he deserved after his death.

Pilate, the governor, was surprised to hear that Jesus was dead. He had been on the cross just a few hours. People often stayed on the cross two or three days before dying. Pilate sent for a Roman soldier who had been at Jesus' crucifixion. The soldier confirmed that Jesus was dead so Pilate gave Jesus' body to Joseph.

Nicodemus, the Pharisee whom Jesus visited at night, helped Joseph remove Jesus' body from the cross. They wrapped him in a linen burial cloth but there was no time to complete the other burial preparations. The sun was setting and at sundown the Sabbath would begin. The Sabbath was the Jew's holy day and no work could be done then. So they put Jesus' body into Joseph's tomb cut from a rock. They used a large stone to seal it shut.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus noted where the tomb was. They planned to return there after the Sabbath to anoint Jesus' body with spices, as was the Jewish custom.

He is Risen-Read Mark 16:1-7

The Sabbath passed. Doubtless Jesus' followers spent the day mourning the death of their friend. Early the next morning the women returned to the tomb. On the way there they discussed a problem. How could they move that big stone? They didn't know what they would do. But when they arrived, they were amazed! The stone had been moved. A stranger dressed in shining white greeted them. He spoke the words which make Christianity unique. "He is risen!" Jesus had defeated death!

The women saw the empty tomb. They told the disciples who went to meet him in Galilee. Later many others saw the risen Christ. After forty days, Jesus returned to Heaven. Before going, he promised to come again. He keeps his promise when he comes to believers through his Holy Spirit. One day he will come to earth again for all men to see.

Victory can be ours Read I Corinthians 15:54-57

What does Jesus' victory over death mean to us? We still sin. Sin leads to death. Although man can prolong life with knowledge of medicine, health and safety, he cannot stop death.

Only Jesus can stop death. He who was sinless took our sins upon himself. He died on the cross and was buried—but he did not stay in the grave. He was raised from the tomb. He conquered death! His victory can be ours if we accept him as our Saviour. He takes our sin to his cross. He gives us his Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. We can be free from sin and the death it brings. Victory can be ours.

It is true that one day our earthly body will die. But if we have Jesus' Holy Spirit within us, we can know that we will have eternal life. We, too, can conquer death.

Teaching Plan

Ask the class to name areas where man has defeated an enemy. Answers may include: overcoming an oppressor, finding a cure for a disease, overcoming poor food production with irrigation and fertilizer, overcoming ignorance and poverty through education and hard work, etc.)

Then ask: Can you think of an enemy man has not been able to defeat? (Ans: death.) Tell the class that today we will see how death can be overcome.

Divide the class into two groups. Give each of them a list of questions (do not include answers) and a pencil. Tell them to read the scripture passage and answer the questions. If the class is large enough they can plan to dramatize the passage. If not, they can prepare to report their answers to the rest of the class. Ask someone who can read to lead. You lead if none can read. Allow twenty minutes to answer the questions and plan the presentations. Allow five to ten minutes to present the dramas or reports. Spend some time with each group to see that they understand. Give help if needed.

Group 1: Read Mark 15:42-47. 1. When did this happen? (Ans: On Friday evening, the day before the Sabbath.) 2. Who are the characters? (Ans: Joseph, Pilate, the soldier, two women) 3. Why did it take courage for Joseph to go to Pilate? (Ans: Joseph was a Jewish leader and the Jews had wanted Jesus killed. The powerful Jews might think Joseph was a traitor.) 4. Why did Pilate send for the soldier? (Ans: To be sure that Jesus was dead) 5. How did Joseph prepare Jesus' body for burial? (Ans: He took him from the cross and wrapped him in a linen burial cloth.) 6. Where was Jesus buried? (Ans: In a tomb cut from a rock) 7. How was the tomb sealed? (Ans: With a big stone) 8. Do you think everyone thought that was the end of Jesus? Why? (Any answer) 9. How do you think they felt? (Ans: sad, angry, disappointed)

Group 2- Read Mark 16:1-7

1. When did this happen? (Ans: Early Sunday morning after the Jewish holy day, the Sabbath. No work could be done on the Sabbath) 2. Who are the characters? (Ans: Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, Salome, a stranger) 3. Why did the women go to the tomb? (Ans: To finish preparing Jesus' body for burial.) 4. What problem did they foresee? (Ans: Removing the stone.) 5. Did they have to move the stone? Why? (Ans: No. It had already been moved) 6. How did they know that Jesus was not there? (Ans: A stranger told them that Jesus was risen. They saw the empty tomb.) 7. What did the stranger tell them to do? (Ans: Go and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen and would meet them in Galilee.) 8. Who do you think the stranger was? (Ans: A messenger from God.) 9. How do you think the women felt? (Ans: Surprised, happy, excited to tell the good news.) 10. Should they have been surprised? (Ans: No. Jesus told them he would rise)

Conclusion

After the reports, tell the class that many people saw Jesus after his resurrection. Ask: "How does Jesus' victory over death affect you?" (Ans: All men can overcome death if you accept Jesus as your Saviour. He forgives your sin and gives you eternal life.) Emphasize that although a Christian's earthly body dies, he will live forever with Jesus.

Say: "Sin leads to death but the Holy Spirit will help a Christian overcome sin. The memory verse tells us this. Let us say it together." Say the verse several times. Then say: "Now say the verse with me only if you have accepted Jesus as your personal Saviour." Say the verse with those.

Say: "Anyone can have victory over death if you accept Jesus as your Saviour. If you have not accepted him, talk to me after class. I will help you understand how to do it."

Remind your Christian students that the Holy Spirit is available to help them overcome sin in their lives. Encourage them to ask for the Spirit's help. Encourage them to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others.

Close with prayer.

To think about and do

We often feel like Satan is stronger than we are. Perhaps we even think he is stronger than Jesus. Today we learned that Jesus was strong enough to defeat man's greatest enemy-death. Satan cannot defeat death. No one else can. Paul realized how great Jesus' power was. Read Romans 8: 35-37. These verses say that nothing is more powerful than Jesus and his love. Through Jesus' love, we can conquer anything, even death.

John also understood Jesus' great power in our lives. Read I John 5: 4-5. Our faith in Jesus enables us to overcome the world, he says. Jesus wants to help us overcome sin and death. We can claim the same power that Jesus used over death. He will give us his power to overcome if we ask him to.

Think of a sin or temptation that is a problem for you. Ask the risen Lord Jesus to help you to overcome it. Ask a fellow-Christian to pray with you about it, too.

Tell someone how Jesus has given you victory over sin in your life. Tell them how he has given you victory over death through his sacrifice on the cross.

Scriptures to study this week:

Sunday: Matthew 28:16-20

Monday: Luke 24: 13-32

Tuesday: Luke 24:33-43

Wednesday: Luke 24: 44-53

Thursday: John 21: 9-17

Friday: I Corinthians 15: 1-8.

Saturday: Read the Bible study lesson for this week.

Lesson 2: The Bible: Written Record of Revelation TEACHER'S LESSON

Background scripture: Hebrews 1:1-4; 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:30-31.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4; 1 John 1:1-4.

Memory Verse: But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31.

Teaching Aim: To encourage students to commit to regular Bible study with the aim of encountering God through Jesus.

Central Truth: God reveals himself to man through the Bible, showing the way to salvation.

Helps for the Teacher: Chalk board and chalk; or large paper and pen.

Getting Ready to Teach:

There is a God and we can know him. Since the beginning of time he has been revealing himself to man. He has spoken in many ways.

He reveals himself in nature. Look at the night sky. The moon moves in beauty and order across the sky. The stars twinkle and shine in patterns we can learn.

The life in a seed is a word from God. You put it in the ground. Soon it changes and appears above the ground as a complex plant, bearing flower, then fruit. God makes that happen.

God speaks in the storm. He sings in the song of the birds. He touches us with the wind, the heat of the sun, a splash of water. All of these things tell us we have a powerful God.

But God is also a personal God. It is not enough to say, "Yes, I believe God is there." He wants you to know him. He wants to talk with you. He wants you to talk with him. The Bible is his written Word to man. By

reading it, we can know all about God. We can see who he is and how he acts

God Has Spoken: Read Hebrews 1:1.

God is a communicator. All through the Bible we hear God telling us who he is. First, we read of his mighty acts of creation. We hear him talking to Adam, the first man. God was willing to reveal himself completely to Adam. He wanted to live and walk and talk with him. But Adam sinned and separated himself from God.

After that God spoke to special men. He called Abraham to follow him and start a new nation. He spoke to Moses and gave laws for the nation. He spoke to David who was king over the nation. When the nation turned from God, he still spoke to some men, his prophets. They all told the people what God said and wrote it down. The Old Testament is a written record of these revelations.

God Came in Christ: Read Hebrews 1:2-4

God wanted to communicate more clearly with men. So he came into the world as a baby. He grew into the man, Jesus. All the holiness and power of God was in him. God's love for man was in him, too. He showed that love by dying on the cross for man's sins.

The men who knew Jesus on earth, knew God. They knew him better than any men before because they lived and worked with him. He taught them and showed them who he was. Jesus' Holy Spirit helped some record what he was like, how he lived and how he loved. These writings became the New Testament of the Bible.

Words to Live By: Read 1 John 1:1-4.

The New Testament writers knew they had been in the presence of the living God. They knew he was the creator of the universe, present "in

the beginning." Since that time, since Adam, no man could face God and live. The coming of Jesus brought a change. To face Jesus and accept him as God was the only way to live. Jesus was the completed revelation of God. He was the way to eternal life.

The writers wrote so people could know God through Jesus. They rejoiced as they wrote, knowing that others would know their joy. They were glad that all men could love each other because of him.

Words for You: Read John 20:31, Memory Verse.

This verse explains the purpose of the Bible. The Bible is not just a history book, It is more than exciting stories. The Bible is God speaking to man. It is a guide for daily living. It shows the way to eternal life. God inspired men to write the Bible and his Holy Spirit helps men to understand it. Through the Bible, God is telling man about himself and calling man to himself. It shows man the way of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Teaching the Lesson:

Ask each student to think of one thing about himself the others may not know. (For example: "I have two sisters.") Tell something about yourself to get them started. Ask others to share. Say: "When unknown facts are revealed, you have revelation." Then write one or two of them on the board or paper. Say: "Now I have recorded our revelations so we have a written record of revelation."

Tell your students the title of today's lesson: The Bible: Written Record of Revelation. Say: "Today we will see what has been revealed and who recorded it." Read Hebrews 1:1. Ask: "Who is the revealer? (Answer: God) Ask: "Who is the recorder?" (Answer: the prophets. Explain that the prophets were people whom God spoke to.) Say: "God spoke to different people in different ways in Old Testament times. He spoke to

Abraham in a voice he could hear. He revealed himself to David in nature. Others, like Moses and Joshua heard his voice in mighty acts."

Read Hebrews 1:2-4. Ask: "How did word from Jesus differ from word from the prophets?" (Answer: Jesus was God himself, the full and perfect revelation of God.) Ask: "How does Jesus reveal God's power?" (Answer: the world was created through him. He keeps the universe going.) Ask: "How does Jesus reveal God's love?" (Answer: He died for man's sins.)

Read 1 John 1:1-4. Ask: "Why can you believe John's account of God?" (Answer: John heard, saw and touched Jesus. Explain: God himself was in Jesus and he is eternal.) Ask: "Why did John write this letter?" (Answer: That his own joy might be complete. Explain: Joy comes from knowing God and sharing the good news with others.)

Read John 20:31. Ask: "Why did John write these words?" (Answer: to help people find Jesus and eternal life.) Say: "Our memory verse tells why we have the Bible. It was written by many men who lived at different times and places. God revealed something special about himself to each one. He inspired them to write down their revelations. These were put together to become the recorded revelation of God."

Conclusion:

Say: "The Bible is more than just a written record of history and prophecy. It is the Word of God for man. God still speaks to people today through the Bible. The Old Testament points to Jesus. The New Testament reveals God fully in Jesus. Through faith in him you can find the living God, and eternal life and joy. By trying to live as he did, you can know what living really is. The Bible shows the way to life and the way to live."

"When you find God, he gives you life. Then he asks for something- your life. He asks to be in control and lead you so you can live as he wants you to. He wants to be your Saviour and your Lord. If you accept him and give yourself to him, he will give you eternal life and joy.

"You cannot know God fully without reading and studying his written revelation-the Bible. He wants to know you and teach you to know him. He has given us his Word to help us. Read your Bible each day this week. God will speak to you. He will tell you about himself and he will show you how to live. There is a good plan for reading the Bible each day in To Think About and Do. Follow it and get to know God better. When you open your Bible, expect to meet God there."

Close With Prayer:

Things to Think about and do

Today's lesson teaches that the Bible is a record of God's revelation to men. He speaks and reveals himself there. As you read each passage of Scriptures to Read this Week, you will find out something about God. Write the reference beside each revelation.

1. God is the way to eternal life John 17:1-3
2. God Created the World Genesis 1:1-31
3. God keeps the world going Psalm 65:9-13
4. God teaches us how to live Psalm 25:8-15
5. God is love I John 4:12-16
6. God forgives sin Psalm 1-3:8-13
7. God answers prayer Psalm 66:16-20

Did you find a personal message from God in one of the passages? What was it? _____

Did God tell you something that he wants you to do? What is it? _____

Scriptures to Study this Week:

Sunday: Genesis 1:1-31

Monday: Psalm 65:9-13

Tuesday: I John 4:12-16

Wednesday: Psalm 103:8-13

Thursday: John 17:1-3; Psalm 66:16-20

Friday: Psalm 25:8-15.

Saturday: Read your Bible Study lesson for this week

LESSON 3: The Divine-Human Book

TEACHER'S LESSON

Background scripture: 2 Peter 1:20-21; Luke 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Scripture for today's lesson: 2 Peter 1:20-21; Luke 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13.

Memory Verse : But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. 2 Corinthians 4:7.

Central Truth: The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Bible and inspires men to understand it

Teaching Aim: To help students understand God inspired men to write the Bible and will help them to understand it.

Helps for the teacher: a clay pot with a key inside; chalk board and chalk or large piece of paper and pen; two written examples of how the Bible might have been written (see teaching plan); enough key-shaped book marks for each student. (Pattern included at end of lesson)

Getting ready to teach:

Last week we began a series of lessons on the Bible. We learned the Bible is a written record of God's revelation. This week we will learn how the writers knew what to write down. Let us see what the Bible says about how it came to be written.

The Bible--Divine Book: Read 2 Peter 1:20-21.

The book of 2 Peter was first a letter. It was written by Peter, one of Jesus' disciples. He wrote to Christians who had to leave their homes. They left because they were persecuted for their faith. He wanted to encourage them to remain faithful. He told them they could trust the scriptures

because they were inspired of God.

The Holy Spirit lived in Peter and directed his life. Peter wrote what God said to him as he meditated and prayed. Peter's writings became recognized as inspired by God and were included in the Bible. God used Peter to give his message and comfort to Christians who were in trouble long ago. His words still bless those who read them today.

The Bible--Human Book: Read Luke 1:1-4.

Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts in the Bible. He lived in the days just after Jesus. He was a part of the early church. Luke was inspired of God to write about Jesus and the early church, but God did not dictate the words to him. Luke had to work hard to produce his writing.

He talked to many people who had known Jesus. He searched for and compiled early written records of Jesus' life and ministry. He wrote of his own experiences in the early church. He wrote about the apostles with whom he lived and worked. Then he put all this together. He wanted to make an orderly account of Jesus' life and the life of the early church. He wrote it down so important facts could be remembered. Through all this work, God was directing and inspiring Luke.

God's book for men. Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-13.

Paul, the great preacher and missionary, wrote these words. He traveled to many lands telling people of the salvation Jesus brings. He wrote letters to those who became believers. These letters are part of the Bible today. We can read the instruction and help he offered to new Christians in those days long ago. They can instruct and help us, also.

Paul knew the importance and necessity of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. Here he says God's Spirit not only inspired the words of scripture, but the Spirit must also help the reader or hearer to interpret or understand those same words.

You need more than a knowledge of reading to understand the Bible. You must have the help of the Holy Spirit. If you ask he will help you. Then the Bible can become a real revelation of God to you.

Heavenly treasure--farther vessels: Read 2 Corinthians 4:7, Memory Verse.

Paul also wrote these words. He knew his human weakness. He knew he needed God's power to communicate God's message. Many preachers and Bible teachers do not want others to know their weakness. They rely on their own power to do their work. But Paul said, "I come before you in weakness and much fear." He used simple words because he did not want to win people by the power of words but by the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2:1-5) Only God's power can win souls. Only the Holy Spirit can teach us God's truths.

The memory verse tells us God puts the treasure of his revelation into the words of weak men. The Bible is just another book until God's power opens it and makes its meaning clear. Then it becomes powerful and can change lives. Its truth can give us eternal life.

We can carry the treasure of God's word to others. He will teach us and help us share with others. Remember, you may be weak but God can use you to enjoy and share the treasure of his truth.

Teaching Plan:

Show the class a clay pot with a key inside of it. Ask them to guess what is inside. Then remove the key. Say: "This key opens the door to a

treasure. Which has more value, the pot or its contents? Why?" (Answer: the contents because treasure is more valuable than a clay pot).

Then say: Last week we began a study of the Bible. We learned that the Bible is a written record of God's revelation to men. Today we will see something about how it was written.

Call attention to today's title, The Divine-Human Book. Ask: "What does divine mean?" (Answer: of God) Ask: "What does human refer to?" (Answer: of man.) Say: "So the Bible is of God but it is also of man."

Write the word "inspiration" on the chalk board or a large piece of paper. Set the pot near the word. Say: "After today's study, you will understand what this word means and how the Bible can be both divine and human."

Ask someone to read 2 Peter 1:20-21 aloud. Tell them who Peter was. Then have two people read these ideas (which you have written on paper) aloud:

#1. "I have some good ideas. I am a good writer. I like to write. I think I will sit down and write about God. Yes, that would be good. That is what I will do."

#2. "I have been talking to Jesus' disciples about him. They told me how he spoke of God and did miracles. I believe he was God's Son. I believe he died for my sin. I believe his Holy Spirit lives in me as he promised. I have been praying a lot and I think God wants me to write down what I know about Jesus. My friends think I should, too. Maybe I should try."

Ask: "Which do you think might be how writers of the Bible came to write?" (Answer: #2.) Say: The writing of the Bible was inspired by God. He led the writers to record his revelation.

Read Luke 1:1-4. Tell the class who Luke was and what he wrote. (See "Getting Ready to Teach.") Ask: "Did Luke just sit down and write what God told him?" (Answer: no) "How did he do it?" (Answer: He talked to many who had known Jesus. He wrote down what they said. He also wrote of his own experience in the early church. He put it all down in an orderly way.) Ask: "Do you think Luke worked hard?" (Answer: yes) Say: "Although God inspired men to write the Bible, men did the work."

Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-13. Say: "We read here that God inspired the writing of the Bible. But what about reading it? How can it be understood?" (Answer: The Holy Spirit can help us) Ask: "If you do not understand the Bible, what can you do?" (Answer: Ask God to help you.)

Have the class read 2 Corinthians 4:7 aloud together. Point to the pot and ask: "How is the Bible like this pot?" (Answer: It contains the key to a treasure, God's word.) Then point to the word, "inspiration". Say: "This is the evidence of God's Spirit working through men. It tells how the Bible was written and it tells how the Bible can have meaning today."

Conclusion:

Say: "The Bible is a Divine-Human book. It was inspired by God and written by men. It tells about God and it tells about men. It reveals God to men. It gives divine direction for human living.

"In the Bible you have a treasure. Ask God to help you as you study it. It holds the key to salvation, wise living and eternal life."

Allow each student to take a cardboard key from the pot upon which is written, "2 Corinthians 2: 12-13." (See pattern at the end of the lesson) Say: "Use this key as a place marker as you read your Bible. Let it remind you that God inspired men to write the Bible and he will help you understand it."

Close with prayer.

Things to Think About and Do:

Is there someone in your class who cannot read? Is there someone who does not have a Bible? This week share the Scriptures to Read this Week with them.

Pray for God's Spirit to guide you so that his word will have meaning for you both.

Each day before you read the Bible, ask God to reveal his message to you. After you read, write down what God said to you. Talk together about how God inspired the writers. Talk about how he helps you understand its meaning. Be ready to share your experiences next week in class.

Scriptures to study this week:

Sunday: Hebrews 4:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Monday: Psalm 19:7-10

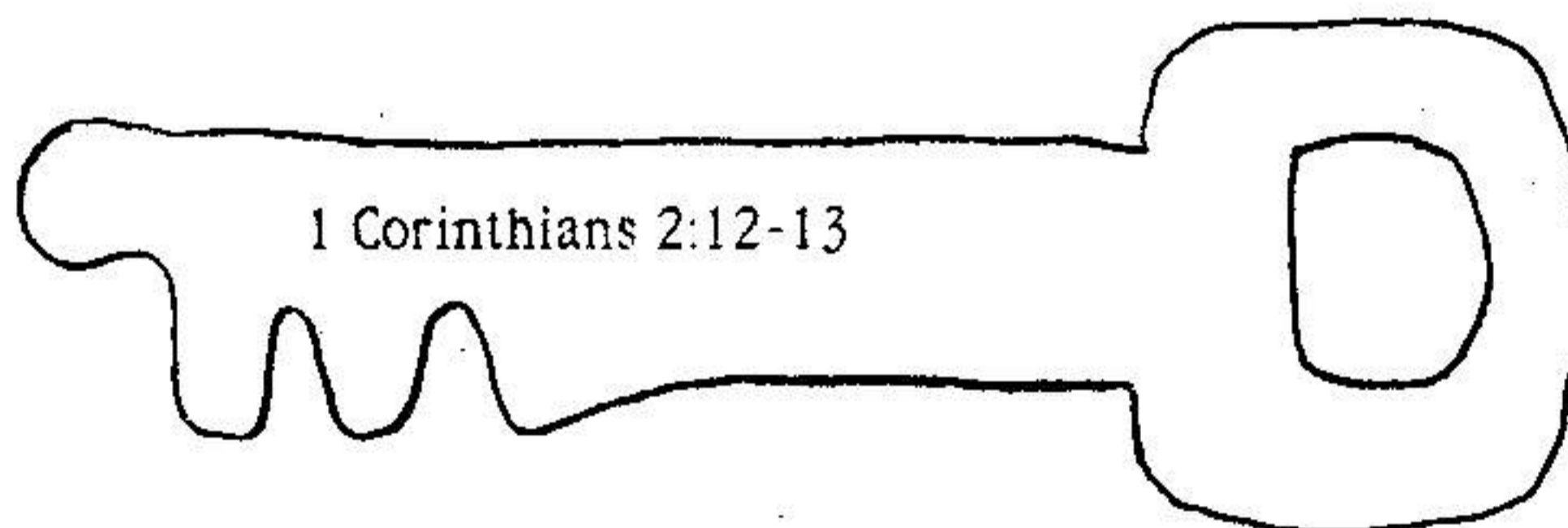
Tuesday: Psalm 119: 9-12

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Thursday: Matthew 4:2-4

Friday: Psalm 119:97-106.

Saturday: Read your Bible Study Lesson for this week.



Lesson 4: The Authority of the Bible.

TEACHER'S LESSON

Background Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Luke 4:16-22; 2 Timothy 3:14-16; 2 Peter 1:16-19.

Scripture for today's lesson: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2 Peter 1:16-19.

Memory Verse: All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16

Central Truth: The Bible is the authority for a Christian's faith and practice.

Teaching Aim: To encourage students to accept the Bible as a reliable guide for life.

Helps for the teacher: Make a chart explaining the memory verse (see Getting Ready to Teach, "Authority for Faith and Living"); chalk and chalk board or large paper and pen.

Getting Ready to Teach:

Christians are often called "People of the Book". The "book" refers to the Bible. In the Bible we find reasons for Christian beliefs and guides for Christian living. Today's lesson will show why the Bible has such authority.

God's Authority: Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

God reveals himself to man in the Bible. In it, we see he has a plan for each man. He gives him rules for good living and calls for obedience.

God has the right to claim authority over man. He created the universe and man to rule over it. So God who made life gave rules for its working. He knows how it will work best and gave us laws which will follow his plan. Obeying him will make things work well. We are wise when we acknowledge his authority over us.

The basis for God's authority is love. God loves us and wants us to love him. He says to keep his law in your heart, the "seat of love." He gave us the law because he loves us and wants us to live happy and fruitful lives. He wants us to obey him because we love him. God's love for us and our love for him are the basis for his law and our obedience.

We should begin and end each day with God's Word. During the day we are to study it, think about it and talk about it. We are to show it by the way we live at home and in the world. Our lives should show that we obey God's Word.

Jesus' Authority: Read 2 Peter 1:16-19.

Many said Jesus spoke with authority, but Peter knew the source of his authority. Once when he was with Jesus on a mountain top, he saw him change. Jesus began to shine like a light. Two of the Old Testament prophets appeared and talked with him. Then Peter heard God's voice from a cloud. God said Jesus was his Son. (See Matthew 17:1-8) Then Peter knew Jesus' authority came from God.

Jesus used Old Testament prophecies to announce that he was sent by God. Peter said Jesus' authority could be proved because he fulfilled these prophecies.

Jesus is the completed revelation of God. He not only fulfilled prophecy but he also explained Old Testament law. His life showed us how to obey it. He showed us the true nature of God. He completed God's plan to save mankind from sin.

All we know of Jesus is written in the New Testament. So the New Testament is an authority on God's Word.

Authority for faith and living: Read 2 Timothy 3:16, Memory Verse.

The Authority of the Bible is two-fold. There is authority for faith and authority for daily living. This chart explains:

THE BIBLE--OUR AUTHORITY

For Faith (Believing)

For Living (Doing)

1. Teaching (revealing God)

3. Correction (repenting and turning from sin to God through faith in Jesus)

2. Reproof (revealing right and wrong)

4. Training (putting into practice what we learn from God)

Many people put their faith in a creed or a person. But Christians must look to the Bible for their authority.

If we are to be "People of the Book" we must accept the authority of the Bible by faith. Then we must live by what we find in the Bible.

Study to know God's Word well. Ask God to help you share what you learn. Let the Bible be the authority in your life. Become known as one of the "People of the Book."

Teaching Plan:

Ask your students to report on their reading with a classmate last week. Encourage them to continue with this plan.

Ask: "To Whom would you take a broken watch?" (Answer: a watch repairman, an authority on watches) Ask: "To Whom would you take a sick child?" (Answer: a doctor, an authority on helping the sick) Ask: "If your car was broken down would you take it to a school teacher? Your mother? A watch repairman?" (Answers: no, an auto repairman) Say: "An authority is one who is expert in a certain area."

"Today's lesson is on the authority of the Bible. What kind of authority does the Bible have? What is its source? Let us go to the Bible for answers."

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Say: "This was written by Moses. It is what God told him. Our last two lessons told us God reveals himself to men and he inspired men to record his revelation. Verse 4 reveals something about God. What is that?" (Answer: He is the only God) Say: "Verse 5 tells us how to respond to God. How is that?" (Answer: love him with all your heart, soul and might- with your whole life.) Ask: "What words do you think verse 6 refer to?" (Answer: God's words recorded in scripture) Say: "God's words can be revelation, commands or prophecy."

Say: "The Old Testament speaks with authority because it reveals God as creator of life. As its creator he is the expert on how it works. Verses 6-9 tell nine things you are to do with God's Word." Ask: "What can you find?" Write responses on the board or large paper. (See list of underlined words in Things To Think About and Do) Add any they miss. Discuss these thoroughly with your students.

Read 2 Peter 1:16-19. Say: "The Old Testament cannot stand alone as authority. It depends on the New Testament, the written record of God's completed revelation in Jesus." Ask: "Who does verse 17 say Jesus is?" (Answer: God's son) "What does verse 19 tell about him?" (Answer: He fulfills Old Testament prophecy) Ask: "What does verse 16 tell us Peter saw about Jesus?" (Answer: He was of God) Tell of Peter's experience with Jesus. (See Getting Ready to Teach, "Jesus' Authority") Say: "Verse 19 says we should heed Jesus' words because he has authority as God's Son."

Say the memory verse with the class. Then show the chart you have made. (See Getting Ready to Teach, "Authority for Faith and Living") Say: "This will help us understand and remember the memory verse." Explain the verse using the chart.

Conclusion:

Say: "The authority of the Bible comes from God who inspired it. The Bible should be our authority in faith and daily living.

Look again at the list we made from Deuteronomy 6:6-9. These are ways we can put God's Word into practice. Choose from the list ones you will be faithful to this week. Let your class respond. Encourage them to do these faithfully this week. Tell them they will have an opportunity to share their blessings from this next week.

Close with prayer.

Things to Think About and Do:

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 tells us how to apply God's Word to our lives. Study those verses and then study the summary of them which follows:

1. Learn and memorize scripture. ("shall be in your heart") How can this help you? (Psalm 119:11) It helps you not to sin
2. Teach your children the Bible. Why is this good? (Proverbs 22:6)

He will grow up the right way

3. Discuss the Bible in your home. Read Joshua 24:1.
4. Tell people about Jesus. ("When you walk in the way.") Who can you tell about Jesus? _____
5. Read God's Word before you sleep. Confess your sins. What does God promise to do? (1 John 1:9) _____ He will forgive you
6. Start each day with God's Word. (Read Psalm 5:3)
7. Let God's Word direct your actions. ("blind them as a sign on your hand") The Jews wore scripture in little boxes on their wrists and foreheads. What does James 1:22 say? _____ Do what God tells you
8. See things as God does. ("as frontlets between your eyes") Anything between your eyes affects your vision. What do these words of Jesus say to you? (Matthew 23:35-40) _____ Look for Jesus in the world around you and act accordingly.
9. Show your home is Christian. ("Write them on your door posts and gates") The Jews posted Bible verses on their gates and doorposts to show their faith. How can you show your home is Christian? _____

Scriptures to study this week:

Sunday: Deuteronomy 6:4-6

Monday: Exodus 20:1-20

Tuesday: Joshua 1:8-9

Wednesday: Luke 4:16-22

Thursday: Romans 16:25-27

Friday: Revelation 22:17-21

Saturday: Read your Bible study lesson for this week

Lesson 5: How Many Books Became One Book

Teacher's Lesson

Background Scripture: Exodus 34:27; Jeremiah 36:27-32; John 21:24-25; 2 Peter 3:15-18; Revelation 1:11,19.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Jeremiah 36:1-2, 27-28, 32; John 21:24-25.

Memory Verse: Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. Mark 13:31.

Central Truth: God brought together the books of the Bible to form a complete guide for faith and life.

Teaching Aim: To help students see how the books of the Bible come together to form one book which is sufficient for faith and living.

Helps for the Teacher: Bring some official document such as driving license, marriage certificate, or worker's identity card and a piece of paper on which you write the information which is on the document; chalk board and chalk or large paper and pen; six slips of paper with Bible references.(See Teaching Plan. Note: Write only the references, not the underlined answer)

Getting Ready to Teach:

How do you know when a document is official? It must bear a stamp of authority. We say the Bible is the Christian's authority for faith and living. What makes it official?

How did these sixty-six books emerge from all other religious writings to form the Holy Bible? Who decided which books would receive the official stamp? Why is it important to know? This lesson will help us understand.

The Old Testament: Read Jeremiah 36:1-2,27-28,32.

We have learned that God revealed himself to men. He inspired them to write down his revelation. Jeremiah was one of these inspired writers. The king did not like Jeremiah's words because they said the king was

wicked and would be punished. So he burned the writing. He tried to kill Jeremiah. But God not only inspired the writing of his word, he also took an active part in keeping his word safe. He protected Jeremiah so he could re-write his book.

The Old Testament writings came to us in three stages. The first five books are the oldest. They contain history and the Law. For a long time these five books were all there was to the Bible.

The second stage was the writings of the prophets. Jeremiah's book is one of these. Finally came the third part, made up of songs, poetry, proverbs and mystical writings.

The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament were finally made official about ninety years after Jesus was born.

The New Testament: Read John 21:24-25.

The four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, were probably the first part of the New Testament to become official. In these verses John tells why he wrote his Gospel. He wanted people to have his eye-witness account-of Jesus. He wanted them to believe in him as God's Son and Saviour.

John said the world could not hold enough books to tell all about Jesus. He lets us see that we only need enough to reveal him and testify to him. The early Christians had the job of choosing enough books to do that. Acts tells the story of the early Church.

The second part of the New Testament contains thirteen letters by Paul. Some of Paul's letters were accepted as Scripture very early. (2 Peter 3:15-18) They explain how to put Jesus' teachings into action.

The other books of the New Testament are also letters written by others.

About 350 years after Jesus, the books of Bible come to their final grouping. Leaders of the Church made the decision. They chose those books Christians had agreed were true and inspired.

God's Perfect Word: Read Mark 13:31, Memory Verse.

Out of many writings some were chosen. They give a complete picture of God through Jesus. Nothing can be added or taken away. They stand as they are. They are enough to guide us in our faith and living. They will remain until Jesus returns to earth to end human history. (Deuteronomy 4:2).

Teaching Plan:

Let your students share the blessings they received when they put God's Word into practice using Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Encourage them to try to do all nine things. Assure them that God will bless them for doing it.

Show the class the official document you have. Show them also a paper on which you have written the information in the document. Tell them each paper contains the same information. Let them examine these papers. Then ask: "Which is official?" (Answer: the one with the official stamp) Say: "The Bible is the official document for Christian faith and practice. Today we will see how the Bible came to be what it is today".

Say: "The Bible explains itself with the help of the Holy Spirit. Here are some passages of scripture that can help us see how the Bible came to be known as the official Word of God. From these we will find the reasons the writings were chosen".

Divide into groups and give them the slips of paper on which you have written the scripture references. (You can have from two to five groups.) Tell them to read the scripture and tell how this passage helps us understand how the Bible came to be as it is today. Do the first one together

so they understand how to do it. Allow fifteen minutes for each group to prepare. Then ask them to share their findings with the class. Write down all the reasons on the board or large paper. Some passages are difficult. If your students have trouble, you can help by sharing information in brackets in your list.

If your class cannot read, you read the scriptures. Let them state the reasons implied in each passage (the words which are underlined in your list).

1. Exodus 34:27-33. People knew the writers had been with God. (In this passage Moses' shining face was proof.) John 21:24-25. (People knew John was a special friend of Jesus. He was an eye-witness.)
2. Jeremiah 36:1-2, 27-28,32. 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. God protected the writers. (In these verses Jeremiah and Paul were protected.)
3. 1 Chronicles 29:29-30. God acted to save the writings. (Although the temple had not been used and was in poor repair the Word had not been destroyed.)
4. 2 Peter 3:15-18. All scripture is in agreement with other parts to show one theme, God's love for man as shown in Jesus. (Some of Paul's writing was hard to understand, but Peter saw it had the qualities of scripture.)
5. Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19. They go together to make a complete revelation. (Each makes a unique contribution to the whole. Take away anything and it is not complete. It is not necessary to add anything.)
6. Philippians 4:9. It passes the test of time and practice.

Review and discuss all the reasons.

Say: "It took many years for the Bible reach its final form. The final selection come about as believers found the truths in these books to be

sufficient. They tell the complete story of God's revelation to man, what is needed for man to live well on earth and how to gain eternal life.

"The Old Testament was made complete and official about ninety years after Jesus was born. The New Testament was finalized about 350 years after Jesus. Since then, people through many years and from many cultures have found it a sufficient guide for faith and living."

Conclusion:

Say: "We believe the Bible will be sufficient to the end of time." Read Mark 13:31 together. Say: "The written Word is lasting just as Jesus, the living Word, is lasting. The Bible says Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. The Bible is a timeless book. It is as good today as in the days when it was written.

"All other writings and teaching must be studied in the light of the scriptures. What does the Bible say? This must be our first concern as we make choices and live our lives. Mark says we can rely on God's Word. It does not change. It has eternal meaning. You can trust God's written Word, the Bible, just as you can trust God's living Word, Jesus. (Hebrews 13:18) Make the Bible your official guide for faith and living."

Close with Prayer.

Things to Think About and Do

1. What kind of writing does each scripture represent? Put the correct letter in the blank.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| A. <u>f</u> Exodus 20:1-21. | a. History |
| B. <u>c</u> Psalm 103. | b. Wise sayings |
| C. <u>a</u> 2 Kings 25:1-13. | c. Poetry |
| D. <u>b</u> Proverbs 6:6-11. | d. a letter |
| E. <u>h</u> Isaiah 44:21-22. | e. prophecy |
| F. <u>e</u> Micah 10:5-18. | f. Law |
| G. <u>g</u> Philippians 4:8. | g. teaching |
| H. <u>d</u> Ephesians 1:1-2. | h. revelation |

2. The Bible is a guide for faith and living. Has a passage of scripture helped you solve a problem or make a decision? If so write it down and tell how it helped you. Tell someone about it.

3. Learn the books of the Bible in order, so that you can find them easily. If you know them, help someone else learn them.

Scriptures to Study this week:

Sunday: Exodus 34:27-33

Monday: 2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 29:29-30

Wednesday: 2 Peter 3:15-18

Thursday: Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 1:11,19.

Friday: Revelation 22:18-19

Saturday: Read your Bible study lesson for this week

Lesson 6: The Bible in the Language of the People TEACHER'S LESSON

Background Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-3.8; Habakkuk 2:2; Acts 2:1-12.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3.8; Acts 2:1-6.

Memory Verse: We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God. Acts 2:11.

Central Truth: People need the Bible in their own language to give it meaning for their lives.

Teaching Aim: To help students understand why people need the Bible in their own language.

Helps for the Teacher: Something written in another language or a person who speaks another language.

Getting Ready to Teach:

If you want to talk with someone you must both know the same language. To be useful, words must be understood. We know that God revealed himself to men. The men wrote down God's words. They wrote in the language they spoke every day. It was the language of a certain time and place. The people of that time could read and understand it, but we would not be able to.

If the Bible had never been put into other languages only a very few scholars could read it today. But God wants to speak to you. Therefore the Bible must be in a language you can understand.

In the Old Testament: Read Nehemiah 8:1-3.8.

For a long time the Bible was made up of the first five books only. These were written in Hebrew, the language of the writers and the people.

Special men received God's revelation. Scribes wrote it down. Priests read and explained it to the people.

Ezra was a scribe and a priest. The Jewish people had become two nations. The Northern Kingdom was Israel. The Southern Kingdom was Judah. Jerusalem was the capital of Judah. It was also the centre of the Jewish religion. Judah had been captured by Babylon. Many of the people were taken to Babylon. They lived there a long time. They had no access to the scriptures. They lived and worked with the people of their new home.

When the people returned to their homeland, they spoke the Aramaic language, the language of their captors. Only a few remembered Hebrew. So when the scriptures were read to them few could understand. But those who understood explained the words to everyone. They spent many hours reading and explaining God's Word. When they understood, the people realized they had sinned and were sorry. They repented and asked God to forgive them. They promised to turn back to God and be faithful to him. Hearing God's word in their own language changed their lives.

In New Testament Times: Read Acts 2:1-6.

At the time Jesus lived, the Jewish people spoke Aramaic. The Bible had been written into Aramaic. In this passage the disciples were together waiting for the promised Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8) It was Pentecost, a Jewish Holy Day. Jews from all over the world had come to Jerusalem to worship.

Then the Spirit came with signs of power, wind and fire. The disciples began to speak in other languages, some one, some another. The result was that each of the Jewish visitors heard the Gospel in his own language. More than 3,000 people became believers that day.

Jesus had commanded his disciples to take his message to the whole world. He enabled them to witness to people of many nations by giving them the ability to speak other languages. The Word of God was on its way. In Your Language Today: Read Acts 2:11, Memory Verse.

Before long, the Old and New Testaments were written into Greek, the language of scholars of that day. But Rome ruled the world and Latin was their language so the scriptures were translated into Latin. It was the language of the common people of that time. The Bible remained in Latin for many years after the Roman Empire was gone. Only priests and scholars could read it. They read it to the people and explained it. Men could only hear the word of God if someone could read it to them.

The time came when more people could read. They wanted to read the Bible for themselves. The Bible had been in Latin so long that many thought it was wrong to change it. But after a while the Bible was again put into the language of the people. Some people died for this to come about. Since then the Bible has been translated into hundreds of different languages. We believe that all men should be able to read the bible for himself. Today most people in the world can read or hear the Bible in their own language.

Teaching Plan:

Show what you thought written in another language. Ask: "Can you understand the word?" If your class cannot read, ask someone to say something in another language. Ask: "Do you understand?" Say: "If words are to be useful they must be understood. You must know the language." Ask: "What is the language of our Bible?" (answer: Our language.) Say: "The Bible was not always in this language. Today we will see how it came to our language and why. The earliest books of scripture were written in Hebrew.

Do you know why?" (Answer: It was the language of the writers and the people.)

Read Nehemiah 8:1-3,8. Ask: "Who was Ezra?" (Answer: a scribe and priest.) Ask: "What was a scribe?" (Answer: one who could read and write.) Say: "He was one of the few left who understood Hebrew. The people had spent many years under an oppressor. They had begun to speak their captors' language, Aramaic." Ask: "Who came to the reading?" (Answer: all the people.) Ask: "How did those who spoke Hebrew help?" (Answer: They explained God's Word to the people.) Say: "The result was that the people turned from their sin and promised to be faithful to God."

Read Luke 4:16-19. Say: "Jesus spoke Aramaic. The Bible of his day was written in Aramaic, the language of the people." Read Matthew 28:18-20. Ask: "What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?" (Answer: Make disciples of all nations.) Ask: "Did all nations speak Aramaic?" (Answer: no.) Ask: "Did the disciples speak all languages?" (Answer: no.) Ask: "How could they do this big task?" Read Acts 2:1-6 to see.

Say: "Pentecost was a Jewish Holy day. Jews from other countries had come to Jerusalem to observe it. The disciples were waiting for the Holy Spirit as Jesus had told them to do. How do you know it came? (Answer: 1) The sound of wind filled the house, 2) Tongues of fire appeared over the disciples' heads; 3) They spoke in other languages.) Ask: What was the result of this?" (Answer: 1) The wind and fire showed God's power; 2) Jews from many lands heard the Gospel in their own languages; 3. Many people were saved.) Say: "Thus began the spread of the Gospel to all nations."

Conclusion:

Say: "Most countries now have schools so that all their people can learn to read. The Bible has been put into most languages. Today more than ever before, it is possible for people to study and understand God's Word.

"Each of us has a part in getting God's Word to all nations. We can study and know it. We can tell what we know. We can give money to print more Bibles. We can send others to learn a new language so they can teach it or translate it. We can teach people to read so they can read the Bible for themselves. We can live in such a way that others will want to know more about our God and the Bible he inspired."

Repeat the memory verse with the class. Say: "These words are true for us. What can we do to make them true for others?" Discuss Things to Think About and Do, #2. Choose something you can do as a class or as individuals. In this way you can help more people claim the memory verse for their lives.

Close with prayer.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Thank God for the Bible in your language. Pray for those who put the Bible into other languages. Pray for those who learn other languages so they can teach the Bible to others.
2. How could you help in sharing the Bible?
 - a) Give a Bible to someone without one.
 - b) Give money for Bible translation, distribution or radio broadcasts.
 - c) Teach someone to read so they can read the Bible for themselves.
 - d) Share with someone how the Bible speaks to you in your daily living in a language you can understand.
 - e) Teach a Bible class at your church.
 - f) Have a Bible Study in your home.

g) Be a missionary. Learn a new language so you can share God's Word with someone who speaks another language.

Which of these will you do this week?

Scriptures to Read this Week:

Sunday: Genesis 11:1-9

Monday: Acts 1:1-5

Tuesday: Acts 8:26-40

Wednesday: Acts 21:37-22:2

Thursday: Habakkuk 2:2; Thessalonians 2:13-3:1

Friday: Revelation 5:9-10.

Saturday: Read your Bible study lesson for this week.

TEACHER'S LESSON

Lesson 7: Keys to Understanding the Bible.

Background Scriptures: John 5:37-47; 16:12-15; Acts 8:26-35; 17:10-12; James 1:22-25.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: John 16:12-15; Acts 17:10-12; James 1:22-25.

Memory Verse: You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is they that bear witness to me. John 5:39.

Central Truth: The key to understanding the Bible is a sincere desire to know and obey God.

Teaching Aim: To lead the student to commit to making the Bible their guide for living.

Helps for the Teacher: Cardboard box with a Bible inside; chalk board and chalk or large paper and pen. Pictures to illustrate each point. (See teaching plan for details.)

Getting Ready to Teach:

"The Bible is too hard for me to understand."

"I read the Bible but I do not understand it."

"Why should I read the Bible? I cannot understand it." Have you heard statements like these? Have you ever said or thought such things? Many people have these feelings about the Bible.

It is true. The Bible is a big book. Much of it is hard to understand. It comes from a distant past. It comes from a foreign culture and language. But God gave us the Bible to be our guide for faith and living. Surely he wants us to read it and understand it. If so, there must be special helps or keys to understanding. Today's lesson will give us those keys. With them, the Bible can be what God wants it to be for us.

The Spirit to Guide: Read John 16:12-15.

Jesus told his disciples the Holy Spirit would come after he left them. Last week we saw how the Spirit came with great power on Pentecost. He inspired the disciples to apply Jesus' teachings to life. He inspired them to present Jesus to all nations and to call for decisions to follow him.

The Spirit of Jesus came at Pentecost. He remains on the earth. He enters the life of each Christian and stays with him. He is with you. One work of the Spirit is to guide you into all truth. He can help you understand the Bible if you ask him.

The Desire to Understand: Read Acts 17:10-22.

When you ask the Holy Spirit to help you, he will. But you cannot expect him to do all the work. You must work as well. What will aid you in your work? Let us see what happened in Berea.

The Church sent Paul and Silas there to tell about Jesus. They went to the synagogue (the Jews' church). The people there had faith in God and they knew the Old Testament Scriptures. They were willing to listen to Paul and Silas. Then they searched the Scriptures. They found that what Paul said about Jesus was confirmed there. They became believers.

The keys to understanding here are faith and an open mind. You must desire to know the truth. You must be willing to listen, ask questions and look for answers in scripture. You must compare truth from one part of the Bible with that in another. It is also good to check your findings with other faithful Christians.

The Will to Do: Read James 1:22-25.

Followers of Christ were first called Christians because of their actions. They applied the teachings of Jesus to their lives. Often we do not understand exactly how to do something until we begin to do it. The Bible is like that. You must put it into action. Then your understanding will grow.

My friend, Josephina sold beer for a living. Then she became a Christian. She studied God's Word. She saw it was wrong to do something that brought harm to others. So she stopped making beer. She began baking bread instead. Her income increased. Josephina acted on God's word and her understanding grew. God blessed her because she obeyed his Word.

The Value of Understanding: Read John 5:39. Memory Verse.

The object of Bible study is not to understand the Bible. The object is to know Jesus better. He alone can give life meaning. He alone can forgive your sins. He alone can give you salvation and eternal life. The way to Christ is found in the reading and understanding of the Bible.

The Bible also shows us how Jesus lived. It shows us how to follow his example. It teaches us all the things that God wants us to know to live a full and abundant life. It teaches us how to let the Holy Spirit guide us each day. By reading and studying the Bible, we can know all the joy that God has planned for us.

Teaching Plan:

Show the class a covered cardboard box. Ask: "Do you want to know what is inside?" Some will probably say yes. Ask: "How can you find out?" (Answer: Open it.)

Let one open the box and remove the Bible inside. Hold up the Bible and say: "Today we want to discover some keys of understanding the Bible. We have seen two ways already. 1) We must want to know what is inside.

If we had not wanted to know, the box would just sit here. 2) We have to do something. If we wanted to know but did nothing, the box would still just sit here."

Ask: "Do you really want to know how to understand the Bible?" Let some answer. Ask: "Why?" Let some answer. Say: "Let us look in the Bible to find keys for understanding." Write on the board or large paper: KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE. Before beginning, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Read the scriptures in order below. After each, ask for the "keys to understanding" that we learn in the passage. Write each on the board or large paper. If your class cannot read you might find or make some pictures to show. This will help them remember.

1. John 16:12-15. #1. The Holy Spirit will help you. (Say: "Never open your Bible until you ask the Spirit to guide you." Use a picture of a dove.)

2. Acts 17:10-12. #2. Want to know. (Say: "Be willing to learn, ask questions, change your mind." Use a picture of a large question mark.)

#3 Search the Scriptures. (Explain: Be familiar with your Bible. Compare one part with another. Some times when you can do this are: Jesus fulfilling Old Testament prophecy; Jesus explaining Old Testament law; the early church applying Jesus' teachings. Show a picture of a Bible.) #4. Have faith in God through Jesus. (Say: "Then you will have the Holy Spirit with you to guide you." Show a picture of Jesus.) #5. Talk to Bible teachers, preachers and other faithful believers. (Remind them to always let the Bible be their final authority. Show a picture of a preacher or group of people.)

3. James 1:22-25. #6. Put what you learn into action. (Ask for examples of learning by doing. (swimming, driving a car, sewing.) Show a picture of a hand. Then tell Josephina's story from the background material.)

Say: "The memory verse tells why we need to understand the Bible." Say it together. Ask "Why?" (Answer: It points the way to Jesus and eternal life.) Repeat the verse again.

Apply This Lesson to Life:

Say: "As a Christian you must know the Bible. You must ask the Holy Spirit to help you each time you read or hear it. You must be willing to find the truth even if it means changing some of your ideas. Study with a good teacher and other faithful believers.

You may understand only a little of what the Bible says. But if you act on the little you know, your knowledge will increase. Even teachers and preachers must keep on learning." Tell how you study and prepare to teach the lesson each week.

Ask: "Can you tell of a time when you gained understanding of the Bible by acting on what you knew? Let some tell if they will.

Review the keys to understanding by going over the list or showing the pictures. Offer to help any who want your help to get started studying the Bible regularly.

Close with Prayer. Ask God to lead your class to want to understand the Bible, then to give them understanding and a will to apply it to their lives.

Things to Think About and Do

I. As you read each passage of Scriptures to Study at home, follow these steps:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into understanding.
2. Open your mind to receive the message God has for you. Be willing to ask questions or change an idea if you need to.
3. Ask yourself: What does this passage tell me to do?
4. Commit yourself to do what is called for.
5. Share with someone a truth you have learned.

II Is there someone in your class who cannot read or does not have a Bible? Offer to study these passages with him

Scriptures to Study at Home:

Sunday: John 5:37-47;

Monday: John 16:1-15;

Tuesday: Acts 8:26-35; James 1:22-27;

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-13;

Thursday: Psalm 119:145-152;

Friday: Ephesians 6:10-20.

Saturday: Read your Bible study lesson for this week

Lesson 8: The People and Places of the Bible.

TEACHER'S LESSON

Background Scripture: John 4:1-30.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: John 4:3-10, 18-26.

Memory Verse: I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. Isaiah 49:6.

Teaching Aim: To help the student see that knowing about the people and places of the Bible can help him understand its truth.

Central Truth: The Bible uses real people and real places to teach real principles for living.

Helps for the Teacher: A banana; three sheets of paper and pencils; chalk board and chalk or large paper and pen.

Getting Ready to Teach:

Last week we found some keys to help us understand the Bible. But sometimes the Bible is still hard to understand. The names of people are strange. They say and do things we do not understand. We do not know where some of the places are. Remember, the Bible was written by men in a certain time and place. They wrote so the people of their day could understand. They wrote about places familiar to them. The names and customs were theirs.

People die. Names and borders of countries change. Customs pass and change with time. But God's Word does not change.

God dealt with real people to teach them how to live. The truths he taught are still good for us today. We can find those truths if we know more about the world at the time the Bible was written. Then we can apply it to our own lives. Today's lesson will show us how important this is.

The Land of the Bible: Read John 4:3-6.

Many of the events of the Bible took place in the present day country of Palestine. God had promised it to Abraham and his family. They became the Jewish nation. God used them to bring the Saviour to the world. In Jesus' day it was divided into four parts: Judaea, Galilee, Samaria and Peraea.

The people of Judaea and Samaria disliked each other. To reach Galilee, north of Samaria, the Judaeans went through another country to avoid Samaria. They travelled many more miles but they did not care. They did not want to meet their enemies. They would do anything to avoid that. But Jesus ignored tradition and went through Samaria.

The village of Sychar was where Jacob and Joseph, early Jewish leaders, had lived. It had been a sacred place to the Jews. Jacob's well was still in use. Jews did not use it, though. They didn't come near it.

The Bible tells us that Jesus arrived at the sixth hour. That was mid-day, just like it is in many African countries.

The People of the Bible: Read John 4:7-10.

The woman was surprised when Jesus, a Jew, spoke to her. She was surprised first of all because he was a man. Men did not speak to women in public. Women were treated as property. She belonged to her father or her husband. When Jesus spoke to her he showed he valued her as a person. Secondly, she was surprised because he was a Jew. Jews and Samaritans had no dealings with each other. Jews were descendants of Abraham. God had chosen to work through them to bring salvation to the world. They were proud of this. The Samaritans were Jews whose ancestors had married non-Jews. Their religion had taken on some pagan customs. Jews thought of them as Gentiles or pagan non-Jews.

Jesus sent his disciples to find food in the village. This was unusual. Jews and Samaritans would not eat the same food. They would not eat or drink from the same dishes. But Jesus asked her for a drink of water. She would draw it with her own water pot. He would drink from it.

"Living water" was a term Jews and Samaritans knew. It referred to God's Spirit. When Jesus used that term, the woman knew what he meant.
The Worship of God: Read John 4:18-26.

Jesus had just shown the woman he knew of her immoral life. As God, he knew all things. Yet he did not shun her as others did.

She saw he must be of God, so she asked him about the true place of worship. Jerusalem was the seat of the Jewish religion. Jews thought the temple there was the only true place of worship. Samaritans also worshiped God. But they thought Mt. Gerizim, their holy place, was the only true place of worship.

She was surprised when he said the place of worship is not so important as the spirit of worship. Jesus surprised the woman again when he revealed himself as the Messiah, the promised Saviour.

For All People and All Places: Read Isaiah 49:6, Memory Verse.

Although God chose to reveal himself through the Jews, he wanted all people to know and worship him. When Jesus came, the Jews' purpose was fulfilled. Now Christians are the ones God uses to tell the world of his plan of salvation.

Teaching Plan:

Say: "The Bible is a book of truth, but its meaning is sometimes lost. The difficult names of people and places and different customs make it hard to understand." Show a banana. Say: "If I try to eat it all, I could not digest it. I must peel it first." Peel the banana. Say: "The food is inside. It

compares to the truth in the Bible. The peel compares to people, places and customs of Bible times. If you understand them, you can peel them away to find the truth for your life inside.

"We can see this in today's scripture.

Divide the class into three groups. Give each pencil and paper. Say: "We will read the Scripture for Today's Lesson. Group 1, list all the people; Group 2, list the places; Group 3, list actions or customs which are difficult to understand and any words or phrases which you don't understand." Give them 15 minutes to do this. (If the class cannot read, read to them.) Write the lists on the board or paper. Add ones they miss. (Answers: Group 1- People: Jesus, Jacob, Joseph, Samaritan woman, disciples, Jews, God, "our fathers", Messaiah. Group 2-Places: Judaea, Galilee, Samaria, Sychar, Jacob's well, mountain, Jerusalem. Group 3- actions or words: these will vary, but some might be: Jesus went to Samaria, sixth hour, woman came to draw water, disciples go to buy food, relationship between Jews and Samaritans, "salvation is from the Jews", living water, worship God.)

After the lists are recorded say: "Some truth can be understood without knowing about the people, places and culture. Can you find any in this passage?" Write them for all to see. Truths: 1. Jesus gives eternal life. 2. The spirit of worship is more important than a place. 3. Jesus knows all about you. 4. Jesus is the Saviour.

Say: "Now I will explain about these people, places and customs. Then we will look for more truths." Use information in "Getting Ready to Teach" to explain each of the words or phrases which your class found. Let your students help when they can.

Then add these further truths to the list:

5. There should be no barriers between people when it comes to sharing God's love and truth.
6. Personal prejudice should not be a barrier.
7. God sees all people the same despite sex, race, or national background.

Say: "Now do you see how it helps to know about people, places and customs in the Bible?" Let your students respond. Be sure they understand how important it is to understand the background of this story in order to understand all its truth.

Conclusion

Read the memory verse. Say it together. Ask: "To whom is God speaking here?" (Answer: All who have faith in him through Jesus.) Ask: "What does he want Christians to do?" (Answer: Share his truth and love with all people.) Ask: "Is he talking to you?" (Answer: Yes, if you are Christian.) Ask: "Does he want you to speak and act for him only with people like yourself?" (Answer: No, with all people (the nations).)

Say: "As a Christian, you are a part of God's plan to bring all men to himself. To do this, you need to know his truth. You need to know about people, places and customs in the Bible so you can understand that truth.

God's truth has had meaning for people in many times and places. It has meaning for people in many countries today.

"Be a hard-working Bible student. Learn about people and places of the Bible so you can understand its deeper meaning. Then you will be able to share the love and knowledge of God with anyone you meet."

Close with Prayer:

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Read the Scriptures to Study at Home. Notice in each how someone crosses a cultural barrier to serve God.
2. Write the name of the person, place or custom:
 - a) The first man through whom sin came into the world. (Romans 5:14)
(Adam)
 - b) The place of Jesus' birth. (Matthew 2:1) (Bethlehem)
 - c) One appointed by God to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. (Acts 26:1-18)
(Paul)
 - d) Two customs which showed guests were welcome (Luke 4:44-45) (a kiss) and (washing feet)
 - e) Old Testament King through whom God promised to send the Messiah. (Luke 2:3-12) (David)
3. Are there some people near you without knowledge of God's love through Jesus? Ask God to show you where or to whom you could go to share his truth. Be willing to go.
4. Try to find out if there is a Bible Dictionary in your language. This could help you find out more about people, places and customs in the Bible.

Scriptures to Study at Home:

Sunday: Acts 7:9-16;

Monday: Ruth 1:15-19; Acts 9:10-16;

Tuesday: Acts 10:24-29;

Wednesday: Luke 10:30-37;

Thursday: Luke 7:36-49;

Friday: Luke 7:1-10.

Saturday: Read your Bible Study Lesson for this week.

Lesson 9: Kinds of Writing in the Bible.

TEACHER'S LESSON

Background Scripture: Exodus 14-15; Luke 5:3-10; Philemon 1-18.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Exodus 15:1-2; Luke 15:3-7; Philemon 1-3.

Memory Verse: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15.

Central Truth: You can understand a passage of scripture better if you know what kind of writing it is.

Teaching Aim: To help student see how knowing the kinds of writing will help him find the truth of the Bible.

Helps for the Teacher: A short poem, letter and newspaper article; three large papers and pen, paper and pencils for your students.

Getting Ready to Teach:

What is water? A scientist might say, "Two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen." He might even reduce it to a formula: H₂O. A poet could answer like this. "A lovely, moving, fluid thing, bringing life and beauty with its flow." A reporter might describe water and its uses in a matter-of-fact way. He would show how it relates to the story he is telling. Each would be telling the truth. But each would use a different way.

The Bible with its many kinds of writing is something like this. All the writers are telling the truth of God's love. But they use different ways to do it. Today we will look at some of these ways.

The Truth in Poetry: Read Exodus 15:1-2.

This poem was a song of victory. It told of how God helped his people. The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt many years. Then God called Moses and helped him lead them to freedom. God worked in a mighty way. He

caused the sea to part. The Israelites crossed on dry land. When the Egyptians followed, the sea went back into place. The Egyptians and their horses drowned.

Exodus chapter 14 tells the story of this exciting event in simple language. But here in chapter 15, we have the joyful response of the people. They retell what God did in song and praise him for it. Because we know the story we can understand the meaning of the song. The language of the poet helps us respond to God in joy and praise. It reminds us of the many times he has helped us. We can sing the song with the Israelites.

The Truth in Parables: Read Luke 15:3-7.

Jesus often used parables to explain a truth from God. A parable is a simple story used to make a point. It usually concerns simple things in every-day life. It does not have to be true. You are not meant to compare every detail. You only look for the one main truth.

This parable points out the truth of God's great love for man. Every person is important to him. He does not want anyone to be lost. He takes action to bring each one back to himself.

Parables are short and simple. They are easy to remember. They are a good way to present the truth. Because the stories come from everyday life, they are not hard to understand. If you know how to interpret them you can find great truth for your life.

Jesus often explained the meaning of his parables to his disciples. We can understand them, too. Then we can share the truth of them with others. We can remember them easily because the stories (parables) are easy to remember.

Letters in the Bible: Read Philemon 1-3, 12, 16-18.

Letters make up about one-third of the New Testament. Paul and other apostles began many churches. They usually could not stay with the church long after it began. The new Christians had many questions which they could not answer themselves. They needed help from someone more mature in the Christian faith. Letters were the best way for the Christians to communicate with one another. They would write to Paul or another apostle, asking them what to do. We have the replies to these letters in the New Testament. Some letters were written to churches; some to one person. They usually dealt with specific problems relating to faith or fellowship within the church.

With a knowledge of these letters we get a good idea of the activity and growth of the early church. We see Jesus' teachings applied to life. We read personal accounts of the power of God's Spirit.

Here Paul writes from prison. He begs his friend, Philemon, to take back his runaway slave, Onesimus. Philemon was a Christian friend of Paul's. His runaway slave, Onesimus, had become a Christian. He came to Paul for help. Paul asked Philemon to accept Onesimus as a brother rather than a slave. This letter shows the evil of the sin of slavery. It also presents the necessity for brotherly love between Christians. This letter is just one example of the many truths we can find in the letters of the New Testament.

Find the Truth and Apply It: Read 2 Timothy 2:15, Memory Verse.

Parts of the Bible can be enjoyed with little effort. The words are often beautiful. There are many good stories. But the Bible is not just a book to enjoy. It is a book full of truth for living. If you want to use the Bible as a guide for living, you must find its truth. Then you must meditate on it and decide to apply it to your life. You must study to do this.

We have talked about keys to help you understand the Bible. You need the Holy Spirit's help. You need an open mind. It helps to know about the people, places and customs of the Bible. And you need to know the kinds of writing found in the Bible. Then you can understand it and apply it to your life. When you do this, you please God.

Teaching Plan:

Say: "I am going to read a poem, a letter and a newspaper article. Listen to see if you can tell which is which. Read them one at a time and let the class tell you. Then say: "You recognized these as different kinds of writing. There are many kinds of writing in the Bible. When you recognize the kind of writing, you can better find the truth that is there."

Read Exodus 15:1-2. Say: "This is poetry." Explain the background for this poem. (See Getting Ready to Teach, "The Truth in Poetry") Say: "The language gives more than facts. It gives response and feeling. With poetry you cannot expect each word to mean just what it says. The words often have another meaning. For example: "Grandmother Moon began her journey across the sky just before dawn." You know the moon is no one's grandmother. This is just the poet's way to say, when the moon in its final phase, it rises just before day-break."

Say: "Another kind of writing in the Bible is the parable." Read Luke 15:3-7. Say: "This is one of three parables Jesus told to explain how important man is to God." Explain what a parable is. (See Getting Ready to Teach, "The Truth in Parables").

Read Philemon 1-3. Ask: "Can you guess what kind of writing this is?" (Answer: a letter) Explain the use of letters in the New Testament and give the facts about this letter from Paul. (See Getting Ready to Teach, "Letters in the Bible").

Say: "Now let us see how one truth can be put into different kinds of writing. We are going to write a poem, a parable and a letter. Quickly choose a truth to use. (For example: Jesus died for me or God is love.) Then divide the class into three groups. Tell one to express the truth in a poem, one to make a parable, one to write a letter. Allow fifteen minutes. If all can write, each might want to try his own poem, parable or letter. If none can write, they can dictate and you write it down. Put each writing on a large paper for all to see.

Say: "Now can you see a truth expressed here in different ways? Our memory verse tells why we need to study the Bible. Let us say it together." Repeat the verse. Then ask: "Why do we need to study the Bible? (Answer: to please God) Ask: "What does "right handling the word of truth" mean?" (Answer: know when a writing is a straight account of a truth and when it is a different kind of writing which requires interpretation; be able to understand what the Bible is saying).

Conclusion:

Say: "We all need to become better students of the Bible. We need to understand the kinds of writing found there. Then we will have a better idea of how to find its truth. Remember, begin all Bible study with a prayer for the Holy Spirit to guide you. Keep your mind open to find God's truth. Once you find that truth, put it into action, and share its meaning with others. Then we will be using God's Word as he planned for us to do."

Close With Prayer:

Things to Think About and Do:

Read each of the scripture passages. They are all parables of Jesus.

Write what you think is the central truth of each.

1. Matthew 25:14-30. (God increases his gifts to you if you use them wisely.)
2. Mark 4:21-23. (We must share the good news of Jesus.)
3. Mark 4:26-29. (We can share the Gospel but only God can cause others to believe.)
4. Matthew 18:23-25. (We should forgive others as God forgives us.)
5. Matthew 13:44. (Having a place in God's Kingdom is the most important thing.)
6. Matthew 13:31-43. (God will save his faithful followers from final judgement and punishment.)

Scriptures to Study at Home:

Sunday: Exodus 15:1-7;

Monday: Leviticus 19:11-18;

Tuesday: Amos 7:1-9;

Wednesday: Luke 15:3-10;

Thursday: Philemon 1-16;

Friday: Psalm 121

Saturday: Read your Bible study lesson for this week.

Lesson 10: The Unity of the Bible

TEACHER'S LESSON

Background Scripture: Genesis 12:1-1; Deuteronomy 26:5-9; Joshua 24:2-8; Luke 24:25-7; Acts 13:16-33.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:5-9; Acts 13:22-23; Luke 24:25-27.

Memory Verse: Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. Matthew 5:17.

Central Truth: The Bible is tied together by the theme of God's saving love for man, promised, then revealed in Jesus.

Teaching Aim: To help the student see the theme of God's saving love for man can be found throughout the Bible.

Helps for the Teacher: A bundle of sticks tied with a cord made of four strands; slips of paper with scripture references with hole in each; straight pins, tacks or a long stick.

Getting ready to Teach:

God has always loved man. When he created man he put him into a perfect world and told him how to keep it perfect. But man rebelled. This separated him and all men after him from God. This story introduces the Bible. It sets forth the theme of God's love for man. The rest of the Bible develops this theme. From book to book we see God reaching out, calling man back to himself.

This theme is like a cord or rope. A cord is made as several strands which are wound together. Each is needed to make the cord strong and complete. The strands of the theme of the Bible are like this. A People, a

Place, a Promise and a Person are all wound together to make the Bible a complete book. Each is part of the whole "cord" which is the Bible.

A People and a Place: Read Deuteronomy 26:5-9.

We want to do good to those we love. God showed his love for man as he called Abraham. He promised to make a great nation from Abraham. He promised him a rich land. He promised to bless all men through him. God planned that all men would find salvation through these people. God's promise to Abraham and his line involved obedience. If they obeyed, they would have the blessings. Abraham was obedient. He became the father of a great nation.

In this passage we see the nation suffering as slaves. God showed his great love by leading them out of bondage and back to their promised land. Even after this mighty act of saving love, the people rebelled. As a result they spent forty years wondering in the wilderness.

During this time God gave them laws to follow which would make their lives better. He gave them guidelines for worship which would bring them into fellowship with him. In all these ways God was showing his love to his people who would live in the land he had given them.

A promise: Read Acts 13:22-23.

Through the years and Jews rebelled often. They were proud of their calling to be God's chosen people. But they ignored the God who had called them to be his people. They liked the honour, but not the responsibility. Their disobedience often put them under the rule of wicked leaders. Several times they were conquered by other nations.

But God was always aware. He was always calling them back. He found a few men who listened and they urged the people to repent.

God saw his people were unable to keep his law. They needed a Saviour. King David was a man who knew God's love. He wanted to obey and worship God. Because he tried to be faithful, God promised the Saviour would come from his family.

A Person: Read Luke 24:25-27.

God's greatest act of love was the giving of his Son, Jesus. Jesus was more than God's Son. He was God himself in the form of a man. He came as a poor man to live in a poor oppressed country. He came from Abraham through David's line. He took the sins of all men upon himself. He suffered pain and shame as he died a criminal's death on the cross. He even knew the horror of separation from God, the Father. He did it all to show his love.

The resurrection proved he was the promised Saviour. As God, he had overcome evil and the death it brings. He offers salvation to all who accept what he did. He has the power to enter your life and help you conquer sin. Then you can know God's love in your heart. God continues to show his love to man through his Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. Much of the New Testament tells about this.

A unity: Read Matthew 5:17, Memory Verse.

The Bible must be seen as a whole, a unity. The theme of God's love reaches its climax in Jesus. The Old Testament points to him. The New Testament reveals him and the results of his coming.

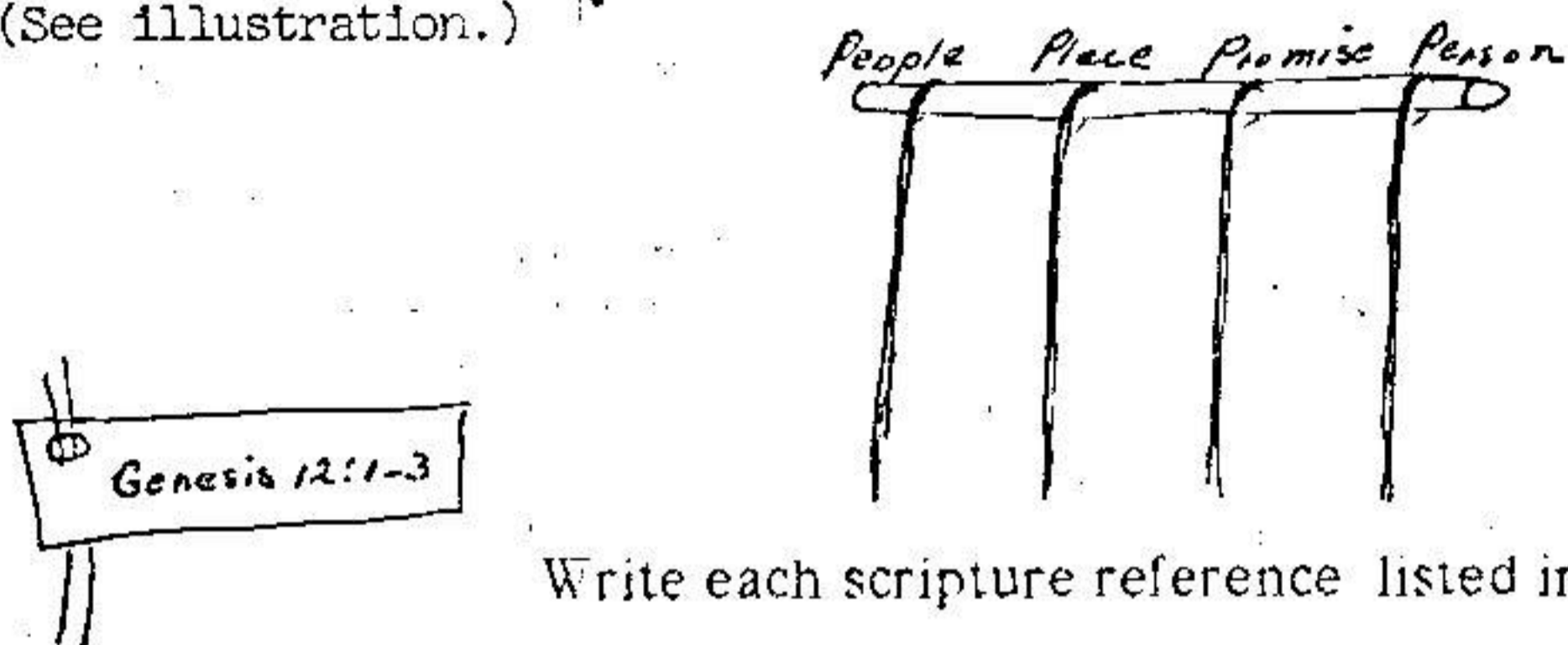
He fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. His life showed God's laws could be obeyed. The records of the early church show how God continues to reach out in love through his Spirit.

Teaching Plan:

Show the class a bundle of sticks tied together with a cord. Let the cord be one you have made by winding four strands together. (It can be

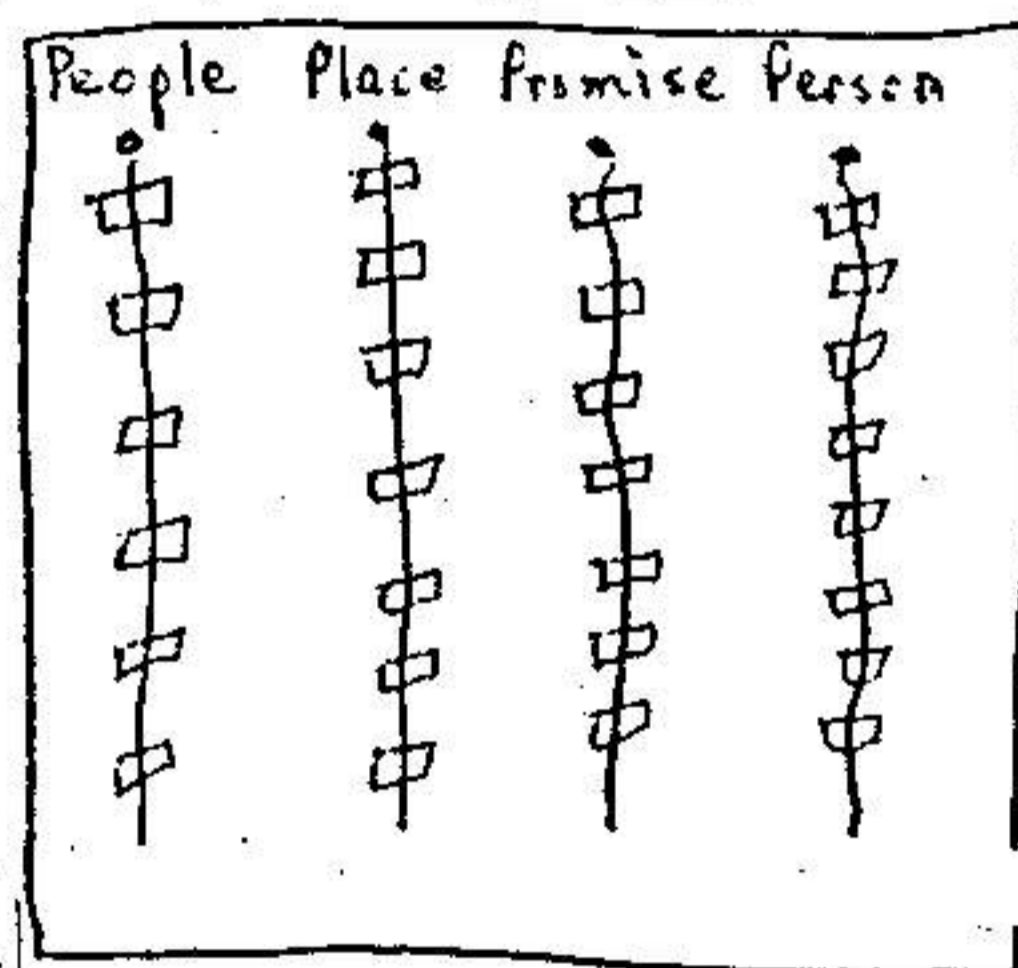
cloth, string or rope.) Say: 'The books of the Bible are like this bundle of sticks. They are bound by one theme. This theme is what gives it unity. The parts that make up the theme of the Bible are a people, a place, a promise and a person.'

Untie the sticks. Separate the strands. Pin them to a board or tie them to a long stick. Tell your students that each strand stands for one of the parts of the theme of the Bible. Repeat them as you hold each strand. (See illustration.)



Write each scripture reference listed in Scriptures for Today's Lesson on a slip of paper which has a hole in it. Give them to students to read (or read them yourself) in the order given. As each passage is read, place its paper on the proper strand.

Tell your class how each theme is repeated throughout the Bible using the references below. You will not have time to read each passage in class. Teacher, you be familiar with them and summarize briefly for your students. You want to show them how the Bible tells the whole story of salvation from beginning to end.



People: Genesis 12:1-3; Abraham, Father of the nation; Genesis 50:19-21, Joseph saves them from famine; Exodus 3:9-10, Moses leads them from slavery; 1 Samuel 11:1, 10-13, 2 Samuel 7:12-13, David, king through whom Saviour will come; Luke 1:26-33, Mary, mother of Jesus-from David's family; Acts 13:1-3, Paul, presents the Saviour to the Gentiles; Revelation 7:9-11, believers from all ages enjoy God's eternal blessings.

Place: Genesis 17:8; Promised Land promised to Abraham; Joshua 11:23, Possessed with Joshua's leadership; 1 Chronicles 11:4-6, Kingdom divided; 1 Kings 12-19-20, nation carried away into exile; 2 Chronicles 36:19-23, return to the Promised Land from exile; Micah 5:2, place of Saviour's birth; Revelation 21:1-3, promise of the "New Jerusalem".

Promise: Genesis 17:2-7, covenant agreement first given to Abraham, God will bless man who obey; Deuteronomy 4:13-14, repeated to Moses and the people; Judges 2:1, repeated to the nation after possession of the Promised Land; 1 Chronicles 16:14-17, repeated to David; Jeremiah 31:31-35, Mark 14:22-24, new covenant for individual believers in Jesus; Hebrews 9:15, Jesus, mediator of the new covenant.

Person: (Jesus) Genesis 3:15, earliest reference to Jesus in the Bible; Psalm 132:11-12, prophecy that the Saviour will come from David's line; Isaiah 53:1-12, reference to Jesus' sacrifice; Luke 2:8-12, Jesus' birth announced; John 4:25-26, Jesus claims to be the Saviour; Philippians 2:5-11, Someday all will know Jesus is Saviour; Revelation 22:17-21, Jesus' second coming will end human history.

Say the memory verse together. Point to the strands of the cord. Say: "You can see how Jesus is the one the Bible is all about. All of it points to his coming, tells of his coming and announces his second coming. The whole Bible tells of how God worked his plan to save man through Jesus."

Conclusion

Say: "The theme of the Bible is God's love for man. All through it we see his love shown to his people and its fulfillment in Jesus. When you read the Bible always look to see how each part deals with this theme. Then think how it applies to you. God first showed his love to a certain people in a certain place. Through them, God showed his love to the world. Now, because of Jesus, his love can be known by all people in every place. His love will continue to be shown through eternity to those who have faith. Accept this good news. Then share it with others."

Close with Prayer:

Things to Think About and Do:

Tell how each passage shows God's love for man.

1. Genesis 1:27-31. (God gave man a perfect world to live in.)
2. Genesis 17:15-19. (God gave Abraham a son in his old age.)
3. Exodus 3:7-8. (God freed his people from slavery in Egypt.)
4. Exodus 15:25-26. (God gave laws to help men live well.)
5. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (God forgives sins.)
6. Psalm 34:18-22. (God protects his people.)
7. Ezekiel 33:11. (God wants all men to live.)
8. John 3:16. (God gave his Son so that men can live.)
9. John 14:15-17. (God gives believers his Holy Spirit.)
10. 1 Peter 5:10. (God calls us to share Christ's glory.)

Scriptures to Read at Home:

Sunday: Genesis 12:1-7.

Monday: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Joshua 24:1-8;

Tuesday: Luke 24:13-27;

Wednesday: Acts 13:16-33;

Thursday: Matthew 5:13-20;

Friday: Psalm 96.

Saturday: Read your Bible study lesson for this week.

Lesson 11: The Place of the Bible in the Church.

TEACHER'S LESSON

Background Scripture: 2 Kings 22:3-23:25; Psalms 118:26-29; 122; Ephesians 3:7-10; 1 Timothy 4:11-16.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: 1 Timothy 4:11-16; Ephesians 3:7-10.

Memory Verse: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16.

Central Truth: The Bible should be the Church's guide for worship, witness and ministry.

Teaching Aim: To lead the student to see that the Bible is vital to the function of his church.

Helps for the Teacher: A dead flower; a live flower in a can or glass of water; chalk board and chalk or large paper and pen, hymn books and Bibles for the class to share.

Getting Ready to Teach.

What gives a church its life? Is it the people? If there were no people you could not have a church. You would have only an empty building. But there are some churches with people inside and we say they are dead. Why? Here are the signs of life in a church. The people are faithful to attend worship. Their music and singing express joy. The Bible is preached and taught. The people are friendly to each other and strangers. They share their money, time and talents to help the church. Its members show Christian action in their homes and the community. They are concerned for lost people. Their membership is growing.

What is the difference between the dead church and the live one? If you examine what goes on in the live church, you will find the Bible is at the heart of all its activity.

For Preaching and Teaching: Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16.

This is from one of Paul's letters to Timothy. Timothy was a young pastor. Paul had been his teacher. Here Paul reminds Timothy of what he had taught him. The first part of the letter points out the importance of the scriptures in the life of the church. The people must know the scriptures in order to live by them. It is the pastor's work to see that they do. Verse 13 tells three ways the scriptures are to be used in the Church. They are to be read, preached and taught.

For the people to know the scriptures, they must be heard. Many have Bibles but do not read them regularly. Others cannot read. So every church service should include reading of the scriptures. The Word of God should be heard. It is powerful. It can draw men to God.

The Bible should be the basis for all preaching. The Holy Spirit helps the pastor as he chooses his text and develops his sermon. Preaching the Word of God is no simple task. It is not one which the pastor can do alone. He must spend a lot of time in prayer and preparation each week. Then the hearers will receive a 'word from the Lord' and not just from the pastor. The hearers should be urged to make a decision or to take action for Christ.

The Bible should be taught and explained. The church should have a plan for regular Bible study. Without that, the people will not mature in their faith. The Bible is full of truth for Christian living. People need to know its meaning so they can apply it to their lives.

The pastor must see that the Bible is read to his people. He must base all his preaching on the truth of the Bible. He should see that the teachers in

his church receive sound teaching. He should see that all have an opportunity for regular Bible study.

The Pastor's life should follow the teaching of the Bible. He should be an example of faithfulness for his people. People need to see the results of his obedience to the Bible. Then they will be more likely to make the Bible their guide for faith and life.

A good pastor does not have to be an old pastor. But a good pastor is one whose life shows the teachings of the Bible. He should be called by God to do this work. He should be willing to spend the time needed to study and understand God's Word. He is the one who sees that the word is faithfully preached and taught in his church.

For Witnessing and Ministry: Read Ephesians 3:7-10.

Paul was called by God to tell the Gentiles the good news of Jesus. God equipped him to do this work. God calls all believers to have a part in this work. (Ephesians 2:10) He gives each spiritual gifts so they can do it. He does not send each one out to work alone. The Bible tells clearly how Christians are to work together to do God's work.

Christians in the fellowship of the church can encourage one another. This strengthens the impact of the Gospel. Much of the Christian witness comes as outsiders observe how we relate to each other. We are witnessing as we work together to make our community and our world a better place.

The Bible must be the guide for these relationships and these works. You can do a little if you work alone. But with others in your church you can support a pastor, help the poor, or send a missionary to the next village or across the world.

For Worship: Read Colossians 3:16, Memory Verse.

The church is made up of the people of God. The thing that binds them together is their worship of God. They accept him as Lord and give him glory and honor as they come together.

One of the basic elements of worship is the use of music. Another is prayer. Our patterns for worship come from the Bible. The words of many hymns and prayers are words of the Bible. The memory verse tells us this is how it should be. Strength and joy come to your life when you sing and pray words of scripture from the depths of your heart. This strength and joy will be seen by those inside and outside the church. It will attract others to you and give you the chance to share your faith.

Teaching Plan:

Show the class a dead flower. Then show a live one in water. Ask: What will happen if I take this flower from the water? (Answer: It will die.) Say: "If the Bible were taken from our church, the church would die. Today we will see how the Bible gives life to the church." Ask: "Can you tell ways the Bible is used in the church?" Write the answers on the board or paper. (Answer: preaching, teaching, reading, hymns, prayers, guide for fellowship of believers, guide for pastors and teachers, guide for witnessing to the lost etc.)

Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16. Say: "These things in verse 11 refer to the earlier part of the letter. Paul was teaching Timothy truths he had been taught by God. They were recorded in scripture and Paul was reminding Timothy of them." Ask: "Which uses of the Bible in the Church are mentioned here?" (Answer: preaching, teaching, reading, witness of pastor). Let the class discuss which are evident in your church. Keep the discussion positive.

Read Ephesians 3:7-10. Ask: "What uses of the Bible (the gospel) in the Church are mentioned here?" (Answer: preaching, witness of the church and to the church, witness to the lost) Discuss how your church uses the Bible in these ways.

Read Colossians 3:16. Ask: "Is the pastor or teacher the only one who can give instruction on the Bible?" (Answer: No. Church members should use the Bible to encourage one another and show each other the right way.)

Ask: "What else does the verse say to do?" (Answer: Use words of scripture in your hymns and prayers.)

Divide into two groups. Let one look through hymn books to find words of scripture. Let the other examine the Psalms to find prayers of praise. After 15 minutes, call them together to share their findings. Then repeat the memory verse together. Ask: "Does someone want to sing these words?" If someone does, encourage the class to sing it together. If not, sing another hymn of praise together. Then read Psalms 118:26-29 as a praise prayer.

Conclusion:

Point to the list you wrote earlier. Ask: "In which ways do we need to improve using the Bible in our church?" Discuss. Then say: "There is one thing we can all do. We can pray for our pastor and Bible teachers."

Close with Prayer. Let different ones pray for you and the pastor, that you will be faithful ministers of the Word.

Things to Think About and Do:

These are all activities of the Church. Find the scripture that gives authority to each. Note one passage is listed twice.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <u>i</u> preaching | a. 1 John 1:7 |
| 2. <u>h</u> teaching | b. Matthew 28:20 |
| 3. <u>k</u> reading scriptures | c. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 |
| 4. <u>l</u> offering giving | d. Matthew 28:19 |
| 5. <u>h</u> praying | e. Psalm 100:2 |
| 6. <u>e</u> singing | f. 2 Chronicles 7:3 |
| 7. <u>a</u> fellowship | g. Matthew 28:19 |
| 8. <u>i</u> witnessing | h. Luke 19:46 |
| 9. <u>c</u> Lord's Supper | i. Colossians 4:5-6 |
| 10. <u>g or d</u> baptism | j. Acts 10:42 |
| 11. <u>g or d</u> missions | k. Luke 4:46 |
| 12. <u>f</u> worship | l. Deuteronomy 16:17 |

Scriptures to Study at Home:

Sunday: Psalm 118:10-29;

Monday: Ephesians 3:1-13;

Tuesday: Colossians 4:10-18;

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 4:6-16;

Thursday: 2 Timothy 3:10-17;

Friday: 1 John 4:1-12;

Saturday: Psalm 78:1-8. Read your Bible study lesson for this week.

Lesson 12: The Bible--A Personal Book**TEACHER'S LESSON**

Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1-6; 30:15-20; Psalms 19:7-11; 119:9-16, 102-105; 2 Timothy 1:13-14.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Deuteronomy 5:1-6; 30:15-20.

Memory Verse: For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4.

Central Truth: Through the Bible, God calls each one to decision and commitment.

Teaching Aim: To help the student see the Bible as God's personal message to him--calling for decision and commitment.

Helps for the Teacher: A Bible; a newspaper; chalk and chalk board or large paper and pen.

Getting Ready to Teach:

When a parent calls his child, he expects a response. A parent sets down rules for his children. Again he calls for a response. The child may respond by coming or not coming. He may respond by obeying or not obeying. The proper response brings blessings if the parent is loving and fair. Disobedience may bring punishment or a broken relationship.

God calls to man through the Bible. He calls out of his great love for man. Man's response will bring either blessing or destruction.

God's Call to Obedience: Read Deuteronomy 5:1-6.

God's laws are more than a list of rules. When God first gave them he demanded a response from the people. That is why it is called God's

covenant law. A covenant is a two-way agreement. The one making the covenant promises to do something if the other fulfills his promise.

When Moses was on the mountain, the people saw God's power revealed in fire and cloud. They knew it was the same God whose power had freed them from Egypt. They also knew God had rescued them because he loved them. His laws were based on that same saving love.

As a nation the people agreed to obey the law. They entered into a covenant with God. Moses was reminding them of this. God had a covenant agreement with their fathers. But the agreement with the fathers was not enough for the sons. Each had to take his own step into his own covenant agreement with God.

An obedient nation called for obedient individuals. In fact, the law is addressed to individuals. "You shall have no other gods before me," (Exodus 20:3), "You shall not steal," (Exodus 20:15), etc.

The people were called to do three things: hear, learn and do. God gives the same call to you through the Bible today. He calls you to hear his word, to understand its meaning and then to obey it.

God's Promise of Blessing: Read Deuteronomy 30:15-18.

God asks for something more than your obedience. He wants your love. You want to please someone you love. You want to be with them as often as possible. Love God. Stay close to him and obey him. Then he will bless you. That is his part of the covenant.

You are free to choose whether or not you will love and obey God. But God makes clear the result of your choice. If you turn from him to go your own way, you will find failure and death.

God's Offer of Life: Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20.

God encourages us, "Choose life!"

There is a story of a man who stands before two doors. He is told that behind one door he will find life, behind the other, death. The man must choose. But he does not know which door leads to life.

How different God is. He tells you plainly in his word the way to life. Love and obedience is the way to life.

The Israelites agreed to obey God. They were rewarded with a good life in the land God had promised them.

God's Gift of Hope: Read Romans 15:4, Memory Verse:

God spoke to men in Bible times. But God's Word is a living thing. When God spoke to those long ago, he was looking ahead to the future. His words were also meant for you.

The Bible helps you know God is working in the world today. Jesus said, "My Father is working still." (John 5:17)

The memory verse says the scriptures can give you instruction, strength and courage to live your life according to God's will. If you do what the Bible says, you have hope-the hope of eternal life. When you say, "I hope...", you usually mean "It would be good if..." When the Bible speaks of hope it means, "You can be sure."

Do you have this kind of hope? You can be sure of your future with God if you take the Saviour of the Bible as your personal Saviour. If you spend time with him daily in his word, your love for him will grow. With this love in your heart, you can obey his Word with confidence. Eternal blessings will be yours.

Teaching Plan:

Show the class a Bible and a newspaper. Ask them to compare the two. Then ask: "Which has a message which will not grow old?" (Answer: the Bible) Say: "The Bible was written many years ago but its message is

still true today." Ask: "Which has a personal message for you?" (Answer: The Bible) Say: "Last week we saw how the Bible is used by the Church." Ask the class to recall some of the ways. (for teaching, preaching, witnessing, ministry and worship) Then say: "Today we will see how the Bible is also a personal book. God speaks to people one by one through the Bible. Before our lesson ends I hope you hear him speaking to you."

Read Deuteronomy 5:1-6. Ask: "Which verse says God's word is for us today?" (Answer: Verse 3) Say: "God's law is a covenant law. What does that mean?" (Answer: God and the people each have a part.) Ask: "What had God agreed to do?" (Answer: Give direction and bless those who obey.) Ask: "What is the peoples' part?" (Answer: to accept God and obey his law) Say: "Each person must agree in his heart that God is his God. Each must promise to obey him himself. A father cannot agree for his son. Each one must enter the covenant agreement for himself.

"The laws Moses talks about here are the Ten Commandments. The rest of the Bible expands and explains these laws and how they work. When Jesus came he showed how God's love worked through the law.

"This scripture tells us three things we must do with the Bible. What are they?" (Answer: 1) Hear. 2) Learn 3) Do.) Explain. (See Getting Ready to Teach, God's Call to Obedience).

Read Deuteronomy 30:15-16. Ask: "What does God say you must do before you can obey him?" (Answer: Accept him as God and love him) Say: "When you love someone, you want to please him." Ask: "How do we accept God today?" (Answer: By accepting his Son, Jesus, as our Saviour and Lord) Ask: "What will happen if you obey?" (Answer: You will live and God will bless you.)

Read Deuteronomy 30:17-18. Ask: "What will happen if you do not obey God's word?" (Answer: You will perish.)

Say: "Our memory verse tells some ways God blesses us through the Bible." Read it. Then ask: "What are the ways it blesses us?" (Answer: It gives encouragement and hope.) Say the verse together several times. Let those who can, say it one by one.

Write the two headings below on the board or paper. Ask the students to name all the ways they can think of for each list. Write their answers on the board or on a large piece of paper.

How I Can Make the Bible Personal. (Possible answers: 1. Read it. 2. Listen. 3. Believe it. 4. Study it. 5. Do it. 6. Share what you learn with others. 7. Any others the class may add.)

How God helps Me Through the Bible. (Possible answers: 1. Reveals himself to me. 2. Shows me his love. 3. Gives me rules for good living. 4. Helps me understand people. 5. Encourages me. 6. Comforts me. 7. Gives me hope. 8. Shows how he deals with the faithful and unfaithful. 9. Any others the class may add.)

Conclusion:

Discuss these lists with your class. You and your students share specific ways you have experienced the things listed.

Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20. Say: "Choose life. God gives you a choice."

Tell the story of the man and the two doors. (See Getting Ready to Teach, God's Offer of Life.) Then say: "It is not this way with God. He makes it very clear which way to choose. You may choose to go your own way. But the end of that road is death. Or you may go God's way by following his Word. The end of that road is blessing and eternal life. Choose life!"

Close with Prayer:

Things to Think About and Do:

The Bible is a personal book. God is speaking to you. How will you respond?

Write your response after each scripture reference.

1. Your salvation. (Acts 4:8-12) (*Answers will vary for each student*) _____
2. When you are discouraged (Psalm 34:18-19) _____
3. When you are afraid. (Psalm 91) _____
4. Relating to your family (Ephesians 5:21-6:4) _____
5. Relating to your friends (Proverbs 17:17; 18:24) _____
6. Relating to your enemies (Matthew 5:44) _____
7. Your work (Colossians 3:23) _____
8. Your thoughts (Phillippines 4:8) _____
9. Your money (2 Corinthians 9:6-8) _____
10. Share your faith (1 Peter 3:15) _____

Scriptures to Study at Home:

Sunday: Deuteronomy 5:6-21;

Monday: Psalm 119;

Tuesday: Psalm 119: 1-16;

Wednesday: Psalm 119: 102-105; Deuteronomy 33:26-29;

Thursday: 2 Timothy 1:3-14;

Friday: Revelation 21:1-7.

Saturday: Read your Bible study lesson for this week.

Lesson 13: The Bible Speaks to Our Times**TEACHER'S LESSON**

Background Scripture: Isaiah 5:16-25; Hosea 12:6-9; Luke 4:16-21; James 2:1-9.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Isaiah 5:16-20; Luke 4:16-21.

Memory Verse: But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everlasting stream. Amos 5:24.

Central Truth: Christians who are faithful to the God of the Bible can change their world for good.

Teaching Aim: To lead the student to act on Bible principles to improve life in his community.

Helps for the Teacher: A Bible.

Getting Ready to Teach:

The Bible is a Christian Book. What is its relationship to the world? The Bible comes to us from another time. Does it have a message for our day? As we conclude this series of lessons on the Bible, we will see how this eternal book speaks to our times.

Jesus Spoke to his Times: Read Luke 4:16-20.

Jesus stood up in his home church. He read from the prophet Isaiah. In this way, he announced the beginning of his public ministry on earth. These words had been written hundreds of years before Jesus. They were pointing to God's Promised Saviour. They told what his work would be.

Jesus said, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:21). He was saying, "I am the Saviour. These are the things I have come to do."

If you read the Gospels you will find Jesus busy doing the things this prophecy tells about.

He went from place to place preaching the good news of God's love for men. He told them God's Kingdom had come. . He often spoke in open, public places where all kinds of people could hear. His good news was for rich and poor, Jews and non-Jews. He did not limit himself to the religious people.

He gave sight to the blind. He healed people with all kinds of physical problems. He forgave sinners, releasing them from the sin which held them captive.

Most of the people he spoke to lived under the Roman oppressors. But some of those Romans listened to him, too. He showed them how to free their spirits from oppression. He showed them that freedom is a matter of attitude. A spirit which trusts God cannot be harmed by a human tyrant or a physical prison.

Near the end of his ministry, Jesus said to his followers "He who believes in me will also do the works I do; and greater works will he do, because I go to the Father." (John 14:12) We are his followers. We are to do these some kinds of things Jesus came to do. His Word and his Spirit are available to help us.

Isaiah Spoke to His Times: Read Isaiah 5:20-23).

These words from Isaiah describe the corrupt day in which he lived. But they could easily be telling of life in many places today. The Bible points to life's problems. But it also gives answers.

Look back to the things Jesus came to do. Think of the problems in the place where you live. Use your Bible to see how Jesus acted in similar situations. Pray for God to guide you into action. Be sure your own life is a clear example of Jesus' teachings. Share your concerns with other Christians. Get them to work with you. Be active in the political life of your community.

Support, vote for and tell others about officials who abide by Christian standards. Christian principles can be upheld under many different types of political structures.

Be sure your home and church are places where people feel welcome. Your true concern and friendship can help sinners understand that God is love. He will forgive any kind of sin if he sees repentance. As lives change, whole communities can change.

You can also change your world by helping the weak, poor, helpless and sick. Do you truly want to share what you have with the needy? If you do, God will bless you so that you will have the means to do this. (2 Corinthians 9:7-8).

The Bible speaks to our Times: Read Amos 5:24, Memory Verse.

In the end God's justice will win. No matter how corrupt the world is, it is a temporary condition. Over the centuries many civilizations have risen to power and then fallen. God will not allow evil to endure.

The Bible records the ways of men. It also records the ways of God. He depends on men who are faithful to his Word to see that right is done. It has been said, "If you are not a part of the solution, you are part of the problem." Will you be counted on God's side when his final justice is shown?

Teaching the Lesson:

Ask your class to name some pairs of opposites. You say the first word. Let them say its opposite. (e.g. dark-light, up-down, good-bad, right-wrong.) Read Isaiah 5:20. Say: "This was the way of life in Isaiah's day. You could say the world was up-side-down. Things worked just the opposite of the way God had planned." Read Isaiah 5:21-23. Ask the class to name some social problems mentioned. (Answer: proud and self-righteous people,

drunkenness, injustice) Ask: "Do we have any of these problems in our community today?" Discuss.

Read Luke 4:16-21. Ask: "What problems are mentioned here?" (Answer: poverty, unhappiness, captives, blind, hurt) Ask: "Do we have any of these problems today?" Discuss. Ask: "What did Jesus say about these problems?" (Answer: He came to do away with them.) Ask students to recall examples of Jesus' doing any of these things. Ask: "What else did Jesus come to do?" (Answer: Proclaim the arrival of God's Kingdom on earth) Discuss what is meant by "God's Kingdom on earth." (Answer: God is worshiped as the supreme authority. His laws are obeyed.) Ask: "Do you see any evidence of God's Kingdom on earth?" (Answer: As Christians worship God and live according to the Bible, the Kingdom is spread) Ask: "Can you think of an example of a wrong made right as Christians obeyed God's Word?"

Say: "Life in the days of the early church was much like life in Isaiah's day. Things were just the opposite of what God planned. But listen to the impact of the early Christians on their world: "These men who have turned the world upside-down..." (Acts 17:6) Ask: "What did that mean?" (Answer: The Christians were changing things back to the way God's Word said they should be.)

Conclusion:

Ask: "What are some areas in our community where we might use God's Word to make a change for the better?" Discuss. (Use ideas from Getting Ready to Teach, Isaiah Spoke, and Isaiah's Prophecies, if no one thinks of anything.) Choose one area where your class will take action.

Say: "We have spent twelve weeks studying the Bible. We have learned how it came to be and was handed down to us. We have talked

about its place in the church, our personal lives and the world. It is the Christian's guide to life. It is also God's commands to all men."

Read the memory verse together. Say: "God's laws and God himself, can be found in the Bible. It is our responsibility to live by what we find there and see that our world knows God's truth as well. We are responsible for how we respond to God as he reveals himself to us in the Bible. The memory verse reminds us that God is just and he is true to his word. His righteousness cannot be stopped. It is like the overflowing waters of a mighty waterfall. God will judge all his creation according to his Word. It is our responsibility to know it, to live it and to share it."

Close with Prayer:

Things to Think About and Do:

The Bible can have meaning to the world around us only as we share its teachings with others. Read the scriptures to see how Jesus carried out Isaiah's prophecy. Then think how you can do the same.

1. "Preach the good news to the poor." What Jesus did: Matthew 11:2-5.
What I can do: Matthew 11:19-21, Luke 14:13, Deuteronomy 24:14-16, Zechariah 7:9-10.

2. "Proclaim release to the captives." What Jesus did: John 8:32, John 14:6, John 8:34, Mark 2:5. Do I know anyone bound by the following:

In prison _____ drugs _____ alcohol _____ pride _____ sexual immorality _____

worldly ambition _____ love of money _____ other _____ What can I do

3. "Recovery of sight to the blind." (all sickness) What Jesus did: Mark 8:22, Mark 7:37; Matthew 15:30-31, Matthew 8:14-15. How can I help the sick?

4. "Set at liberty those who are oppressed". What Jesus did: John 15:5-11.

Do I know anyone oppressed by any of these conditions? depressed _____

unhappy home life _____ lonely _____ bad work conditons _____ un-

employed _____ old age _____ witchcraft _____ What can I do? _____

5. "Proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." What Jesus did: Matthew

4:17. What can I do? 1 Peter 3:14 _____

Scripture to Study at Home:

Sunday: Isaiah 5:16-23; Isaiah 10:1-4, 10-11;

Monday: Hosea 11:1-9;

Tuesday: Luke 4:14-21;

Wednesday: Romans 14:13-23;

Thursday: James 2:1-9;

Friday: Isaiah 58:1-14.

Saturday: Read your Bible study lesson for next week.