

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

The Word of God stands forever.

TEACHER NOTE: The following “general background” information regarding the structure of the Bible should be taught with discretion and special consideration should be given to the ages of the children you are teaching.

General Background Information for Teachers

The Bible (also known as the “Holy Scripture”) is a collection of writings about God’s activity, promises, and commandments. The Holy Scripture describes encounters with God. It is not a complete or exhaustive account of all of God’s deeds. God made sure that what is important for the salvation of mankind has been preserved in the Bible. The biblical writings were collected over a span of about 1000 years.

God prompted people to author the scriptures and He guided them to write what should be written. Each biblical book is written in a style that reflects their respective author as well as the worldview and experiences of their time. God saw to it that the main contents of the biblical books have remained complete and untouched over the centuries.

Holy Scripture is divided into two main parts, namely the Old Testament—which deals with the time before the birth of Christ—and the New Testament, which begins at the time of Christ’s birth.

The Old Testament

The first book of the Bible is the book of Genesis and it is in the **Old** Testament. The Old Testament is broken down more, in a way that is easy to understand. (*Have the children repeat after you: “Five, twelve, five, five, twelve...five, twelve, five, five, twelve”*)

The Old Testament is divided into 5 parts:

1. **5 books of law** – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Number, and Deuteronomy. They are called the books of law because they contain the laws of God to His people, the Ten Commandments, etc. They talk about the creation, Noah and the flood, Abraham, Moses and more.
2. **12 books of history** - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. They tell the History of Israel from the Promised Land to the return to Jerusalem. They cover Joshua, Caleb, the judges like Sampson, Saul, David, etc.
3. **5 books of poetry** - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. They are written largely in a poetry form.
4. **5 books of Major Prophets** - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel.
5. **12 books of Minor Prophets** - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

The difference between major and minor prophets is mostly the length of the books, with the Major Prophets books being longer than most of the Minor Prophet books of the Bible. Remind them that when they think Old Testament – think “5 – 12 – 5 – 5 – 12”.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

Bible Lesson

PART 1: Review the following verses, using the discussion questions as a guide.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIRV)

“But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned. Do not give up what you are sure of. You know the people you learned it from. You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus.

God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, a man of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.”

Psalm 12:6

“The words of the Lord are perfect. They are like silver made pure in a clay furnace. They are like silver made pure seven times over.”

Psalm 119:160

“All your words are true. All your laws are right. They last forever.”

PART 2: Bible Reference Key Instruction

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Lessons → “Spiritual Life” – the Bible – “Our Guide” → scroll down to “class exercise” and click on “Bible Keys”

This worksheet is a guide for you, the teacher, to teach the children some basic information when it comes to looking up verses in the Bible. It will guide you so that you may teach the children some key skills that they need in order to use their Bibles properly. While discretion according to the ages and skill levels of the children you are teaching is needed, please DO NOT skip this part of the lesson, and use it to further guide the children in navigating the Bible. It is not necessary however to cover everything that is listed on the activity sheet.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where does all Scripture come from? *(It comes from God.)*
2. What is Scripture, or the Bible, good for? *(It is good for teaching, for correcting us, for training us, and equipping us to do good things.)*
3. Do you think that God will ever need new laws for us to follow? *(No. His laws last forever. So, what we read about in the Bible will always be a good teaching for us.)*
4. Will knowing what is in the Bible help you to do good works? Why or why not? *(Discuss together. Answers will vary.)*
5. How can you grow like Jesus did? How do you grow your mind, your body, and your spirit? *(Discuss together. Make a chart on the easel or on your white board. Children could also make a 3-column chart on paper or have it premade to save time. Be specific. For example, praying to God helps one to grow in spirit. Reading the Bible could help one grow in mind and in spirit. Exercise would help one grow in body. Etc.)*

Application to Real Life

Enjoy a healthy snack together. While you do, look up in your Bibles Matthew 7:26 and read it together:

“But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand.”

If possible, bring in a large rock and some sand so the children can see firsthand what the verse means. You will need two (2) pans – one for the rock, and the other for the sand. You will also need 2 cups (plastic or paper will work just fine), and a pitcher of water. In the first pan, place the rock in the center and the cup on top of the rock. In the second pan, place the sand (in a pile) with the second cup on top. Ask the children what they think will happen to the cup when you add water to the pan with a rock in it. Gently pour water into that pan and watch what happens. Do the same thing for the pan with the sand. What do the children think will happen? Gently pour the water and watch the cup fall.

Remind the children of this story of the wise man who built his house on the rock and the foolish man who built his house on the sand and what happened to each of the houses. We want to build our house on the rock. We want to put God’s words into practice in our lives. To do this, we need to read our Bibles and see what God has to tell us. We want to learn from Him. (Remind the children of the message and the memory verse.)

Memory Work Fun

1. Name the two main parts of the Bible and tell what the difference is. (Old Testament – before Jesus, New Testament – Jesus & After Jesus)
2. Where is the book of Genesis located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together. Where is the book of Matthew located? In the Old or New Testament? Practice finding it together.
3. Recite the memory verse.
4. Lead the class in a short prayer thanking God for giving us such a special gift so that we can learn about Him, His promises and how He wants us to live.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose from any of the following games or activities. You will want to plan for more than one just in case you need it. For selecting activities to reinforce this lesson, focus on the skill levels (not necessarily the ages) of your children and work on further developing their Bible skills.

These activity choices also provide an opportunity for all ages to work together. Consider pairing up the children where appropriate, older or those children who have acquired stronger Bible skills with younger less skilled children. If you have more boys in your class, consider choosing an activity that is more active and/or competitive in nature.

Enjoy the activities that you choose and remember that you can participate and learn too!

All Ages**"Five Steps to Knowing God's Word"**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Crafts → "Five Steps to Knowing God's Word"

You will need construction paper or card stock, pencils, and glue sticks for this activity. You will also need to print out the Bible reference sheet (see attached) and cut them out for the children to glue on the back of their "bookmarks". When the children are finished, review the five steps and the bible verses that go with each step. Please see the above website for further detailed instructions. Partner older children or volunteers with younger children if they need help tracing and writing.

Make a "Bible Template":

Make a sample of this template before class, so that children can see the finished product. Please see the last page of this lesson for the actual templates. You will need to print one template for each child. You will also need 2 pieces of paper for each child's book, along with scissors, glue sticks and markers.

Help the children to fold their paper (stacked together) to make a book. They will need to write "Bible" on the front of their book. Then ask them to cut out the cards for the Old Testament. The children should open their paper book and glue the Old Testament card on the first set of pages that are open, using both sides.

"Bible Walk":

The purpose of this activity is to help the children learn the books of the Bible in order, in a very active way. Depending on the ages and skills of the children you are teaching, consider starting with 5 or 10 books of either the Old Testament, and increase the number as needed to challenge different students. If the number you chose is too much or too hard, decrease the number so as not to frustrate the child. Remember to celebrate the small successes of each child's learning. The goal is to help the children to be able to recite whatever number of books of the Bible in order and from memory. This will help them know in time where to find that book more quickly during Sunday school and Bible study time. It is recommended that you keep this game to be played numerous times throughout the year. It can also be used as a reference tool when learning various Bible stories, allowing the children to actively find where a book of the Bible is located that contains the story you are learning about that day.

For this activity, you will need to print and cut out either the Old Testament cards or the New Testament cards from the "Bible Walk" Template at the end of this lesson. You will also need to print and cut out the star template. If you are choosing to focus on the books of the Old Testament, you will need to trace and cut out 36 stars. The New Testament books will require 21 stars. (Teacher Note: Star templates can also be found inexpensively at teacher stores, dollar stores, etc.) Glue one Old Testament card in the middle of each star. (You can also choose to just write the name of a book of the Bible on each star. Also, number the stars in order on the back, so you can easily put them back in order in case they get mixed up.) If you printed and cut out the New Testament cards, trace and cut out 27 stars, and follow the same procedures using the New Testament books.

Create a winding path with the stars in order on the floor. Make sure there is a space large enough for the child to step between each star. The children should step just in front of the star so they can see it. One child can go at a time, while the other children can say the book of the Bible with the child who is taking the "Bible Walk". Celebrate the successes of each child's learning. Encourage partners (if you chose to partner up your children) to help one another.

“Bible Detective”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Bible Detective”

This activity will require some preparation work but will last for many months as your children investigate the Bible every week. You will need to print out “Bible Detective” cards and the “Bible Bucks” onto card stock. You may want to consider laminating the Bible Bucks so that they will last. There will be two sides to the Bible bucks to make it more fun and enticing for children. Each week the children will receive one Bible Detective card with the current week’s question. They will get to work on the questions at home and when they return a Bible Detective card with the correct answer, they receive one Bible Buck. After the children have accumulated at least 4-5 Bible bucks, you can allow opportunities (even at the end of the session) to cash in their bucks for treats or small prizes. Make it a fun learning experience. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and for printing templates.

Grades K-2**“I’m Going on a Trip” Game**

Have the children form a circle (either by standing or with their chairs). The first child begins by holding a ball or another object and says, “I’m going on a trip and I’m going to take Genesis.” The child then passes the ball to the next child. The second child continues, “I’m going on a trip and I’m going to take Genesis and Exodus.” Continue the game through all the books of the Bible of the desired Testament or set a goal and try to meet it. Have fun!

Grades 3-5**Look it Up!**

Write the following statements on individual cards (or make up your own). Mix the cards and place them in a small bag. Allow each child to select a card and use his Bible to complete the assignment. Add additional statements as needed:

- How many chapters are in Luke?
- Locate Mark 10:14 and read it.
- Which book is in the middle of the Bible?
- Find the book of Acts.
- Find the first book in the New Testament and read the first verse.
- Look up 1 John 4:7.
- Find and read the last verse of the last book of the New Testament.
- Locate each of the books of Law.
- How many chapters are in the book of Revelation?

“Verse Connection”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → “Verse Connection”

You will need to print or make copies of the handout for each child. Children will look at various Bible verses and decide which verse is best suited for each situation that is presented. Please see the above website for detailed instructions and discussion questions.

Activity Ideas - Continued

Choose One

"Selling' the Importance of God's Word"

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Activities → "Selling God's Word"

You will need an adult volunteer to assist each group and monitor the time allotted as needed. Use the above website as a guide and modify the parameters, as necessary. Children may present their commercials to the class instead of recording them as it is suggested. Allow time for the discussion questions at the end of the activity.

Journal

Optional

Grades K-2

Draw a picture of your favorite Bible that happened before Jesus was born. Why is it your favorite?

Grades 3-5 (Choose One)

Do you think it is important to spend time reading your Bible? Why or why not? What is one thing you would like to learn more about? Write about it.

What is your favorite story from the Bible that happened before Jesus was born? Why is it your favorite? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

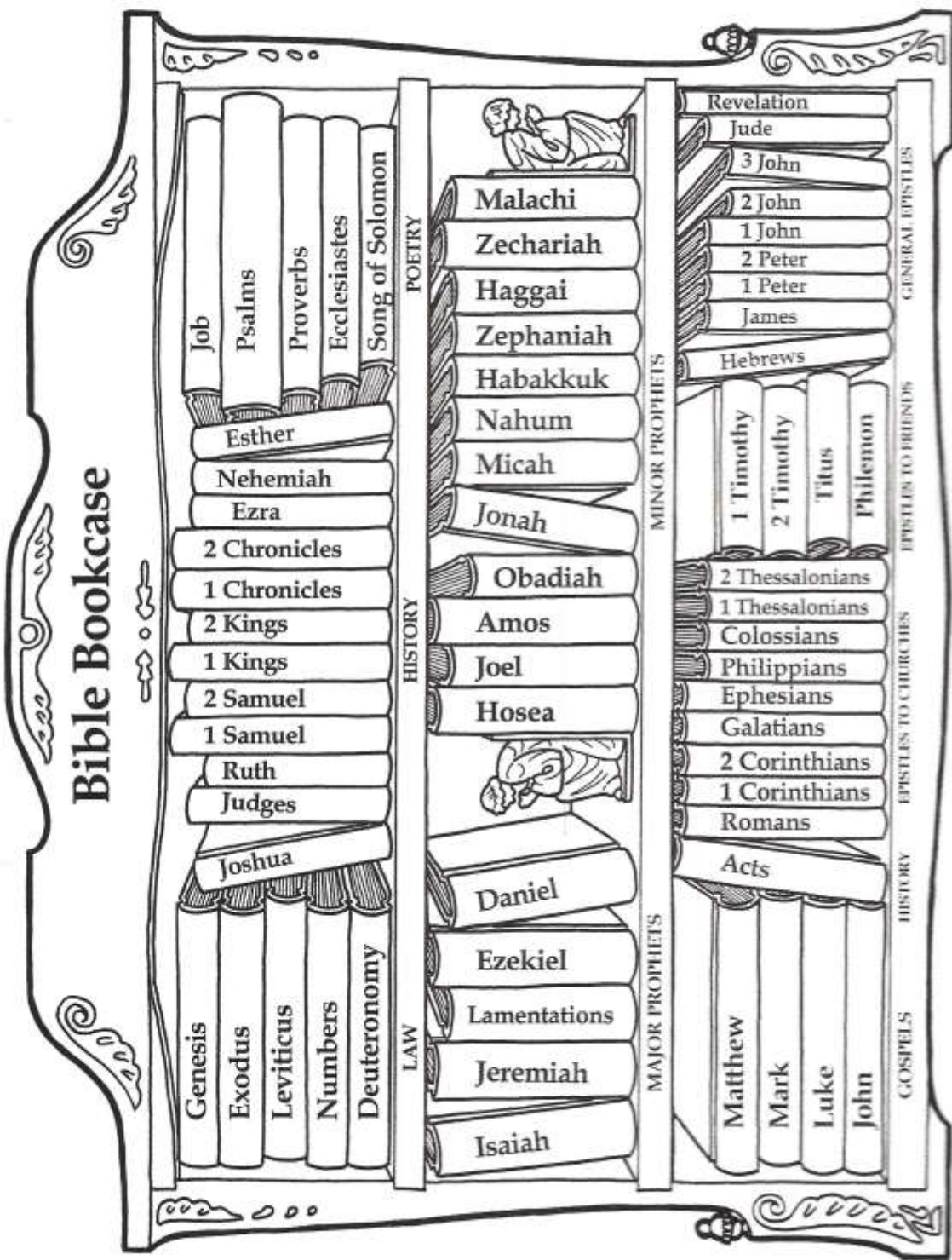
- Read at home with a grown up: **"Hannah and Samuel"** (1 Samuel 1:1 to 2:1).
- Learn the memory verse: *"The Lord has given me what I asked Him for."*
--1 Samuel 1:27
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the **Hannah and Samuel** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Have you ever wanted something REALLY bad? What was it? How did it make you feel? Did you ever get it? Draw a picture of it and bring it class to share.

Other Resources

For additional resources on teaching Bible skills through activities and games, see www.christianbook.com for either of the following books:

1. The Big Book of Bible Skills
ISBN: 0-8307-2346-3
Publisher: Gospel Light
2. The Big Book of Bible Games
ISBN: 0-8307-1821-4
Publisher: Gospel Light

Bible Bookcase

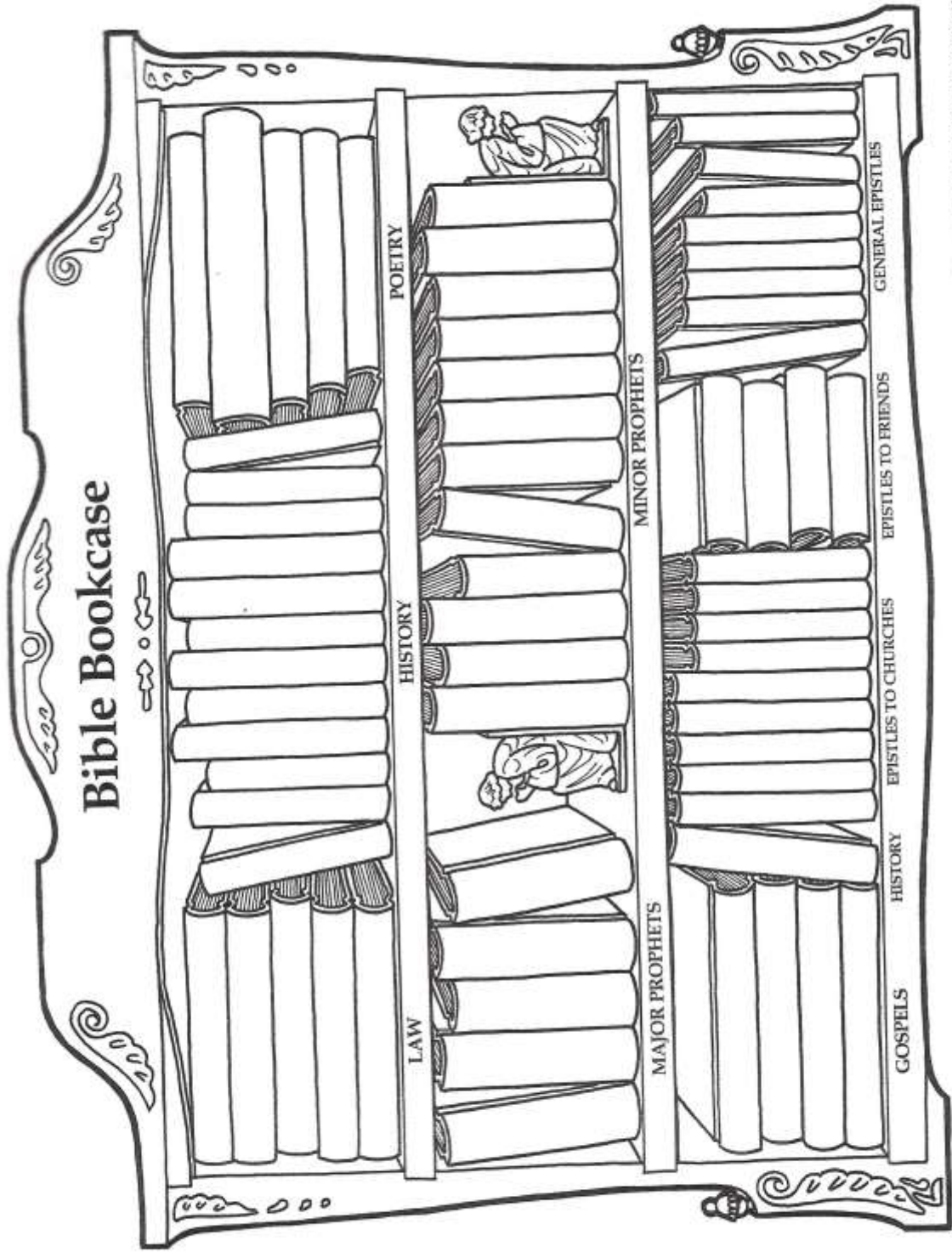


LAW
 Genesis
 Exodus
 Leviticus
 Numbers
 Deuteronomy
HISTORY
 Joshua
 Judges
 Ruth
 1 Samuel
 2 Samuel
 1 Kings
 2 Kings
 1 Chronicles
 2 Chronicles
 Ezra
 Nehemiah
 Esther
POETRY
 Job
 Psalms
 Proverbs
 Ecclesiastes
 Song of Solomon

MAJOR PROPHETS
 Isaiah
 Jeremiah
 Lamentations
 Ezekiel
 Daniel
MINOR PROPHETS
 Hosea
 Joel
 Amos
 Obadiah
 Jonah
 Micah
 Nahum
 Habakkuk
 Zephaniah
 Haggai
 Zechariah
 Malachi

GOSPELS
 Matthew
 Mark
 Luke
 John
EPISTLES TO CHURCHES
 Acts
 Romans
 1 Corinthians
 2 Corinthians
 Galatians
 Ephesians
 Philippians
 Colossians
 1 Thessalonians
 2 Thessalonians
EPISTLES TO FRIENDS
 Philimon
 Titus
 2 Timothy
 1 Timothy
GENERAL EPISTLES
 James
 1 Peter
 2 Peter
 1 John
 2 John
 3 John
 Jude
 Revelation

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Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy



Activities – “Five Steps to Knowing God’s Word”

Romans 10:17	(Hear)	<i>“So faith comes from hearing the message. And the message that is heard is the message about Christ.”</i>
Revelation 1:3a	(Read)	<i>“Blessed is the one who reads out loud the words of this prophecy.”</i>
Acts 17:11	(Study)	<i>“They studied the Scriptures carefully every day. They wanted to see if what Paul said was true.”</i>
Psalms 119:11,13	(Memorize)	<i>“I have hidden your word in my heart so that I won’t sin against you. With my lips I talk about all the decisions you have made.”</i>
Psalms 119:15	(Meditate)	<i>“I spend time thinking about your rules. I consider how you want me to live.”</i>

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Name: _____

Hannah and Samuel



"The Lord has given me what I asked Him for."

--1 Samuel 1:27



Take Home Page: F1. Bible Skills – Old Testament

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **the Word of God stands forever**. Children explored the Old Testament of the Bible and talked about how important it is for us to read it and learn from it.

Help me learn my memory verse...

“The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.” --Isaiah 40:8 (NLT)

Ask me...

1. Where does all scripture come from?
2. Does the Bible have any mistakes in it?
3. How can the Bible help us to grow to be more like Jesus?

Live Your Faith...

Play a game of “charades” together, in which you take turns acting out your favorite Bible stories from the Old Testament. After the correct story is guessed, let the person who chose it explain why it is their favorite and what they learned from that story.

