

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

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”.

The Apocrypha

There was a period of time that passed between the Old and New Testaments. There were about 400 years that went by for which the Bible is silent. There are writings from that period, but they have never been included in many Bibles. If they are included, they are called “the Apocrypha”. They are factual with history, but they are not considered either Old Testament or New Testament books.

Then, after about 400 years, the events of the New Testament started to unfold, beginning of course with the birth of Jesus.

The New Testament

The New Testament is divided into 5 parts:

1. **4 gospels** – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. “Gospel” means good news, or truth, and the gospels are four versions of the same things including Jesus’ life, teaching, death and resurrection. Each version is written from a different perspective.
2. **1 book of history** – Acts. It traces the history of the church from the ascension of Christ to the arrival of the apostle Paul in Rome. It is written by Luke, and combined with the book of Luke, he wrote more than half of the New Testament. Events such as the Pentecost, the call of Saul, etc. are in this book.
3. **13 letters from Paul** – Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. These books are letters that were all written by Paul. He wrote to churches and individuals, instructing them on how they might live out their faith more completely.
4. **8 letters from others** – Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Jude. They are letters written by people other than Paul. The authors are James, John, Jude, Peter, and one unknown. We do not know who wrote the book of Hebrews.
5. **1 book of prophesy** – Revelation. This is the last book of the Bible and it is the only book of prophecy in the New Testament. It tells us about the events leading up to the end of time. It was written by John.

Remind the children again: there are 4 gospels, 1 history, 21 letters, and 1 prophecy.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

Discussion Questions:

Before beginning this section, tell the children that you will be asking lots of questions. Every person has acquired a different level of “Bible skills”, and that is okay. By the end of this lesson, everyone will have stronger Bible skills, and that is the point. Point out where the Table of Contents is in their Bibles and help them to find the answer to their questions.

1. How many books are in the Bible? (66)
2. Can you recite them in order? (If they can, let them try – or see how far they can get. Encourage them to learn the Books of the Bible in order, one chunk at a time, to help them know how to find verses more easily.)
3. How many testaments are there in the Bible, or main parts? (2)
4. What are those testaments called? (Old and New)
5. How many books are in the Old Testament? (39 – Use the table of contents to count.)
6. How many books then are in the New Testament? (27 – Hint – 66 total books take away 39 in the Old Testament, write the math on the easel.)

Application to Real Life

For this lesson, the children receive real life application through the hands-on games and activities.

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.
4. How far can you get naming the books of the Bible in order? Give it a try!

Activity Ideas

Choose One Activity

“I’m Going on a Trip” Game

Have the children to 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!

“Bible Book Pin Up Game”

Print the names of Old and New Testament books on individual clothespins, making two complete sets. Hang a clothesline from chairs at two designated locations. Divide each clothesline into two sections (Old and New Testament). Place one set of the clothespins at each location. Explain that the object of the game is to group the books into the Old and New Testament divisions. At the signal, the first child will run to the clothesline, select a clothespin, decide if it is in the Old or New Testament and place it on the clothesline on the proper side. The first team to correctly separate all their clothespins wins. As an additional challenge, instruct the children to place the clothespins in the correct order.

Build it and they will Learn

Print each of the following Scripture references on a separate index card:

Exodus 14:6	1 Samuel 17:5
Exodus 31:18	2 Kings 4:10
Numbers 11:7-8	2 Kings 4:38
Deuteronomy 17:18	Esther 1:11
Judges 16:25-26	Jeremiah 24:2

Provide modeling clay and a Bible for each child. Guide the children to select a card, look up the Scripture references, and use the clay to make a model of the object(s) mentioned in the Bible verse.

Look it Up!

Write the following statements on individual cards. 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 John 13:35.
- Which book is located in the middle of the Bible?
- Find a book of Law.
- Find the first book in the Bible and read the first verse.
- Look up Psalm 23.
- Find and read the last verse of the last book in the Bible.
- Locate each of the four Gospels.
- How many chapters are in the book of 2 Samuel?

Memory Verse Game

Write each word of a memory verse or Bible verse on a separate index card. Make 2 sets (or you can play “beat the clock”). When you say “go” – students turn the cards over and must put them in order. For an added challenge, they could then go to their Bible and find the verse. First one done wins the round. Try to use memory verses from this year’s lessons.

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

Take Home Page: Bible Skills Review

Today I learned...

Today your child was reminded that **the Bible is there to help us, so we should use it!** The children reviewed the basic structure of the Bible, how to use it, and then practiced some of their Bible skills.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true."

--2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

Ask me...

1. How many books are in the Bible?
2. What's the difference between the Old and New Testament?
3. Why do think God gave us the Bible?

Live Your Faith...

Get out your Bibles and share a favorite Bible verse and/or Bible story that you have read recently. What was it about that verse or story that stood out to you? Spend some time together reading the story or verse you selected directly from the Bible. What was it about that verse or story that stood out to you? Make it a goal to spend 5-10 minutes reading together in your Bibles each day this week.

