

Reality – Bible Lesson for September 6, 2020 – 4th – 5th Grades

The Bible – Practical Applications The Purpose of Scripture

Lesson 1

- 1. Lesson: The Purpose of Scripture**
- 2. Scripture:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 3. Memory Verse:** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” – Psalm 119:105
- 4. Mission Story:** Hudson Taylor – Part 1
- 5. Bible Skills:** The Bible is a special book
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson -** a Bible; pens and pencils
Beginning Activity - Object Lesson: a balloon or a party horn **Bible Lesson:** dry-erase markers and white board or regular marker and paper **Craft (Optional):** Books of the Bible bookmarks - downloaded template on cardstock; colored pencils; decorations; yarn or string; single-hole punch **Bible Skills:** a Bible; a regular reading book **Memory Verse Game: Elementary:** no supplies needed

Optional Craft: 2nd – 5th Grades: Books of the Bible Bookmark Craft –

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/t.asp?t=https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/bookmarks/biblebookmarkboth.gif>

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/mbiblebookmarks.html>

or this one:

<https://biblestoryprintables.com/wp-content/uploads/BSP/BibleBookmarks/BooksoftheBible.pdf>

Missionary Image:

<https://omf.org/us/about/our-story/james-hudson-taylor/>

Song:

2 Timothy 3:16 (The Rizers)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BFGWuXUdhY>

Instructional Videos:

<https://ministry-to-children.com/video-bible-books/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoLGBxzq49M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9DodTRI3vU>

1. Prayer: Pray with your children – then introduce the following discussion and object lesson:

Say: (Hold up a Bible) It's amazing to know that the Bible is the Word of God. All Scripture has been spoken or breathed out by God Himself.

I brought something with me today to help us understand this a little bit better...take a look at this – (hold up a balloon or a party horn) On its own, this is just a bit of floppy material. It can't really do much, can it? But when I put my breath into it (blow into the balloon or party horn), something happens! When my breath goes into it, it kind of springs to life! That's what happens with the Bible. God breathed out those words and gave the Bible life.

Timothy 3:16-17 tells us how the Bible guides us. It says that the Bible helps us by:

- Teaching – telling us what is true
- Rebuking - telling us when we have taken a wrong turn
- Correcting – fixing our mistakes...getting us back on track going the right direction
- training in righteousness - continuing to guide us to do what is right...moving towards God's best for us

The Bible talks to us about Who God is, His love for us, and what's best for us. It is completely God's Word and comes from Him. This can be a little hard to understand so let's dig a little deeper...

2. Bible Story: (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

Listen to the Scripture our lesson is taken from - "God has breathed life into all 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, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing." – **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. The words in the Bible can be trusted because they come from God. **Isaiah 40:8** says "The grass dries up. The flowers fall to the ground. But what our God says will stand forever."

The Bible is the Word of God and He used men to write down what He said. Maybe this will help us understand this a little better – I'm going to need a volunteer. (Select a child and hand them a dry-erase marker for the white board.) Now, (child's name), this is what I'd like you to do. I'm going to tell you what to write, and I want you to write it

on the white board, okay? Please write, "Jesus loves me." (Wait for the child to write this, then thank him/her and ask him/her to sit down.)

This is sort of how the Bible was written. God used people throughout history to share His message, but the words are truly God's words. He told people what to say. People wrote it down, but the ideas and thoughts all came from God. He inspired the Bible. The Bible is written from "God's breath." God breathed the words and stories for us to learn them.

(Ask all the children to take a deep breath and then slowly let the air out.)

Things that have breath in them, just like you and me, are "living." Since the Bible is "God breathed", we also know that the Bible is living. **Hebrews 4:12** tells us that the Bible is "alive and active". God gave us His living, God-breathed, words through using men to write them down. We are also told that the prophets spoke the word of God through His Holy Spirit in **2 Peter 1:21**.

There are a lot of amazing things in the Bible. You can read stories of people in the past, and you can read messages from God to His people. You can also find beautiful Scripture with poetry. You can read the story of the life of Jesus and how He came to earth. And you can find messages that help us know how to live our lives and be followers of Jesus.

The Bible is filled with wisdom and knowledge that can completely change our lives. The entire Bible is a love letter from God. The more we read it, the more God can use us. And the more we study it, the better we get to know Jesus.

To help us learn more about the importance of reading God's Word, let's all imagine that we're taking a walk down to the beach - something most of us know really well.

When we go down to the ocean, we often find some interesting people who visit there. First, are the people who are there to watch the waves, collect a few seashells, and lay on the sand. They might go splash around in the waves a little, but they aren't there to spend much time in the water.

There are some Christians who treat reading the Bible sort of like this. They take it off the shelf and bring it to church then, when they get home, it goes back on the shelf until the next Sunday. It's sort of like, they like to stick their toes in the water, but they have no desire to get in deeper.

There's another type of person who goes to see the ocean. They are not satisfied looking at the ocean from a beach chair and collecting shells. They want to go deep beneath the waves and see where those shells come from. They know that the true wonders of the ocean can't be seen from the beach, from the surface. If you want to experience the depths of the ocean, you have to dive in!

In a similar way, God wants us to dive into the Bible all week long and discover the wealth of knowledge beneath the surface! We just learned in the book of 2 Timothy that Paul said the Bible is "God-breathed," meaning it is the very Word of God. He also said it is useful for "teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" so that God's followers can be well-equipped to serve Him. If we only stay on the surface of it, we will never experience all that the Bible has to offer.

Every part of the Bible has something to teach us. It holds the stories of the real men and women who loved God. The Psalms teach us how to praise the Lord. The Proverbs give us practical wisdom. The gospels teach us what Jesus did to save us from sin. The letters of Paul, like 2 Timothy, show us how to live like Christ. And the book of Revelation gives us a glimpse of eternal life in Heaven. The Bible is where we meet God – in the pages of His Word.

3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

- Who gave us the Bible? (God)
- What does "God-breathed" mean? (Inspired by God)
- Who did God use to write down His words? (The men who wrote the pages of the Bible)
- Who wrote down the words in 2 Timothy? (Paul)
- Name some of the lessons the Bible gives us. (Teaching, correcting our mistakes, making our lives better, training us to do what is right, and more)

4. Bible Application: (Optional)

Craft: Bible Bookmarks:

Elementary –



Instructions:

- Click on the link of your choice to print the template on cardstock paper. Color and decorate as appropriate.

- Cut the bookmark out. If you are using the template from DLTK (one big rectangle) - fold it in half (left to right) along the center line and glue so it stays folded together.
- Poke a hole in the top of the bookmark and tie a string/yarn through as a tassel.
- OPTIONAL: cover with clear contact paper so it lasts longer (you could also put a piece of cardboard in the center before gluing for a sturdier bookmark)

5.Mission Story: Hudson Taylor – Part 1

James Hudson Taylor was born in 1832 in Yorkshire, England. While preparing in college to be a medical missionary, he also studied the Mandarin Chinese language. On September 19, 1853, he set sail for China on the ship, Dumfries, as a missionary for the Chinese Evangelization Society.

Unlike many other Englishmen, Taylor respected Chinese ways and customs, except when they went against the teaching of the Bible. To show his respect for the Chinese, he wore Chinese clothes and even grew his hair into a long pigtail. Other missionaries disapproved. But one English woman who admired Hudson's courage in dressing like the Chinese was Maria Dyer. She and Hudson Taylor were married on January 20, 1958.

Hudson Taylor was unusual in another way. He thought that Christians should not get into debt. He also believed Christian workers should pray to God about their needs rather than asking people for money. Because of these differences, Taylor left the Chinese Evangelization Society and continued mission work on his own. God not only provided for all his physical needs, but his ministry among the Chinese people helped many to become Christians.

However, in 1860, while director of the London Mission Hospital in Ningpo, China, Taylor became so ill that he and Maria had to return to England. While there he translated the New Testament into the Ningpo Chinese dialect. He also founded the China Inland Mission and found new missionaries to go inland instead of just to the cities on the coast. He and his team returned to China in 1866.

Under Hudson Taylor's leadership, the mission grew and spread throughout all of China. When he retired in 1901, eight hundred missionaries served with the China Inland Mission. Hudson Taylor died in Changsha in 1905.

One story that is told about Hudson Taylor is when he was traveling in the interior of China...

"What do you want?" Hudson Taylor whispered to the dark figure who was creeping up on him in the night. It was well after midnight, and Hudson was exhausted. That morning, he had discovered that his servant had stolen all his luggage – almost everything he owned – and left him alone in a strange and dangerous city. Finally, he gave up searching for his unfaithful servant and lay down on the stone steps of a

Buddhist temple, his small purse under his head. He would have fallen asleep if he had not noticed the man creeping up on him.

At Hudson's whispered question, the man left without answering. Relieved, Hudson turned over and had just managed to doze off when he awoke to find two more people sneaking up on him. He remained very still and prayed that God would protect him. They came closer and felt around, trying to find Hudson's money and any other valuables.

When one of the thieves began to feel under Hudson's head, Hudson again said, "What do you want?" "Oh – nothing," said the man, startled. "But you better go to sleep or you won't be able to travel tomorrow. We'll sit here and protect you. Don't be afraid."

"I don't want your 'protection'," said Hudson. "I trust in my God. He will take care of me." One of the men left and came back with a third man, but when Hudson Taylor began to pray out loud and sing, they finally gave up and went away.

The next morning, Hudson thanked God for protecting him. He also realized that he had been so upset the night before about losing all his belongings, that he hadn't asked God for a safe place to sleep. He felt ashamed. If he had prayed, God might have given him a better place to sleep.

As Hudson started the long trip home, he asked God to forgive him for not having more faith. He also prayed that God would help him be more concerned about telling people the Gospel than about losing his things. His prayer made him feel so much better that his day's walk did not seem long or hard. That night, in answer to his prayer, a stranger took him in.

The next day, the stranger arranged for a mail boat to take Hudson down the canal to Shanghai. "He has been robbed," announced his new friend to the boatmen, "but he will pay you when he gets home. And if he doesn't, I'll pay you when you return."

The mail boat was fast, and Hudson Taylor got back to Shanghai safely. He never did recover his luggage, but he realized God would take care of him anyway. A short while later, he received a letter in the mail – with exactly enough money to replace everything his servant had stolen from him.

"My God will use His wonderful riches in Christ Jesus to give you everything you need."
– Philippians 4:19

6. Bible Skills: The Bible is a special book

Bring the kids together in a circle – have a Bible and a regular reading book with you. Begin a discussion on books...Do they like reading books? What is their favorite book? (Give them time to answer your questions.) Pass the reading book around the circle

and have them identify the parts of the book – title, author, a chapter name, how many pages, etc.

Next, hold up the Bible and explain (as we learned in the Bible lesson) that this book is different from any other book. Point out the physical differences and the differences in content. Remind them that the Bible is:

- God's message written to us. It is God-breathed.
- A book that lets us know how to live our lives in a way that pleases God.
- A book that contains many books – all with one message.
- A book that is between 3,400 and 1,900 years old. (The first book of the Bible to be written, likely Genesis or Job, was completed around 1400 BC. The last book of the Bible to be written, likely Revelation, was completed around AD 90. So, if you go by when the Bible was first started to be written, the Bible is over 3,400 years old. But, if you go by when the Bible was completed, the Bible is over 1,900 years old. – ([Got Questions](#))
- A book that has around 40 different authors.

The Bible is an incredibly special book and we will be learning more about it every week. (Stop and hand a Bible to each child.) Let's begin by exploring the contents of the Bible. Everyone please open your Bible and see if you know the answers to these questions:

- Does anyone know how many books are in the Bible? (66 books)
- The Bible is divided into two main parts. Does anyone know the names of each section? (Old Testament and New Testament)
- How many books are in the Old Testament? How many books are in the New Testament? [Here is a fun math way to remember... The OT has 39 books and the NT has 27 books. $3 \times 9 = 27$ (OT) and 27 (NT)]
- Does anyone know the original languages of the Old and New Testaments? (The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament was originally written in Greek)
- How are the books of the Bible organized? (By chapters and verses)

Great job! We'll add more to our Bible skill knowledge next week.

7.Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse – "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – Psalm 119:105

Elementary – Mirror Writing:

Write the memory verse backwards on the white board and let the children discover what it says. "path – my – to – light – a – and – feet – my – to – lamp – a – is – word –

Your" – 105:119 Psalm **or** - make it even harder = "htap – my – ot – thgil – a – dna –
teef – ym – ot – pmal – a – si – drow – rouY" – 501:911 mlasP

8.Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don't forget to pray for missionaries.