

LESSON 20: The Bible - God's Written Word



AIM

To introduce learners to the Bible as a special book containing God's word to humankind. (8.2.1, 8.2.2, 8.6.1)

OUTCOME

Learners show respect for the Bible and understand it as God's word.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1 **Finger play:** The Bible

(Start with hands as in prayer.)

Open up the Bible,

(Open hands like a book.)

And you will clearly see:

(Make circles with thumb and index finger and put over eyes.)

Stories of God's great love

(Put hands on heart.)

Written for you and me.

(Point to 'you' and 'me'.)

Open up the Bible,

(Repeat gestures of 1st verse.)

And you will clearly see

Stories of God's family:

(Open arms as in an embrace.)

Just like you and me!

- 2 **The Bible:** It is important that the teacher handles the Bible with respect and reverence. The children will learn to do the same. Explain that we treat all books with respect; our hands should be clean when we take a book to read; we never write or draw in a book; we turn the pages carefully. (Demonstrate how pages should be turned.) When we handle a Bible, we do so with even more love and respect because it is a holy book. Explain that Christians believe God's own word is to be found in it.
- 3 **God's storybook:** Talk about the fact that the Bible contains many stories and that some they have already heard and that there are many more that they will hear in the future. Talk about how everybody likes to hear stories and that there are many interesting and exciting stories in the Bible. The stories tell us how God loves all people very much.
- 4 **A Children's Bible:** Show the children an illustrated Bible. Open the Bible at the beginning and hold up a picture showing creation. Ask the children what the picture is about. Praise the children for remembering the creation story. Say something like, "Yes. That is the very first story in the Bible. It tells us how everything started and how much God loves us."


WHAT YOU NEED

- * Bible (2) (5)
- * Children's Bible (4)
- * Soft music (6)
- * 🎵 *God Is So Good* or *Our God Is Good* (7)
- * 📖 Worksheet (9) ⇨
- * Crayons (9)

GRADE R

- 5 **A Bible story:** Samuel hears the Lord calling him [1 Samuel 3:1-10]. Tell the story in your own words. Tell it with excitement and enthusiasm.
 - 6 **Prayer:** After the children have heard the story, use the story as a prayer response. The children all lie down as if sleeping. Soft music may be played in the background. When you call an individual name, the child slowly gets up from the floor and responds, "Here I am". The child slowly lies down again. The teacher says, "God loves us and calls each of us by name."
 - 7 **Song:** *God Is So Good* or *Our God Is Good*
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 8 Create a **special place** for the Bible. Each day a new page can be on display.
- 9 **Clothing:** Talk about the people's clothes. The people in the Bible dressed in a different way to the way we dress today. The children could colour the picture on the worksheet.

- 10 **Memory:** The children commit the following scripture verse to memory.
Here I am; I come to do your will, O God.
[Psalm 40:8, Hebrews 10:7]

People in the Bible



LESSON 21: Abraham and Sarah



AIM

To tell a story of Abraham, the father of the Hebrew people. (8.4.2)

OUTCOME

Learners recognise Abraham as the father of the nation of Israel.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Paper, coloured pencils for drawing (3)
- * ♪ *Fre're Jacques* (5)
- * Paper, wax crayons, thin black powder paint (6)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1 **Tell a story:** [Genesis 12:1-6, 18:1-15]

Abraham lived with his wife Sarah in a far away country. One day God spoke to Abraham and Sarah and told them to move to a new place. Abraham trusted God so he and Sarah began to pack. What did Abraham and Sarah take with them? (Let the children make suggestions.)

They packed all their things. They took their animals and they asked all their relatives to come along as well. God showed them where to go. They had to walk a long, long way. And then they had to walk still further.

At last they came to a beautiful country. They had everything they needed. Space to build their houses, water and green grass for the animals. They were very happy.

One day three visitors told Abraham that Sarah would have a son. When Sarah heard this, she laughed. She thought she was too old to have a baby. She did not realise that the visitors were angels sent by God.

God always keeps his promises and Sarah had her baby and she called him Isaac. His name means 'joy and laughter'. Abraham and Sarah had everything they wanted.

One night Abraham stood outside his house looking up at the stars. There were so many, many stars. God told him that he would have as many children as there are stars! Abraham believed God and when he went to sleep that night, he felt very, very happy.

2 **Prayer:** Loving God, Thank you for my home. Thank you for my family. Help me to love and trust you each day. Amen.

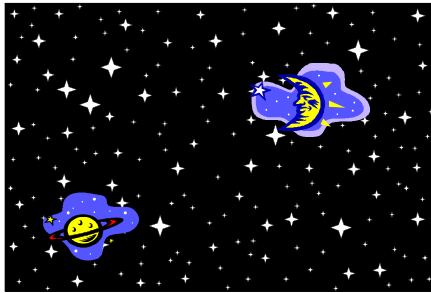
3 **Imagine:** Ask the children to imagine that, like Abraham and Sarah, they are going on a trip. Ask them to each draw one thing that they would take with them.

4 **Play a Memory Game:** The first child shows the picture of what he or she has drawn and says, "I am going on a trip and I will take a ... toothbrush." The second child says, "I am going on a trip and I will take a toothbrush and a ..." The children continue adding to the list, while trying to remember what went before. The children will find it difficult to remember a long string of items, so the pictures should be used as to help the children recall what has gone before.

- 5 **A Marching Tune:** The children march one behind the other, while singing the following to the tune of *Fre're Jacques*.

Father Abraham (said as two syllables Abra'am)
Father Abraham
God called you,
God called you.
We are glad you listened
We are glad you listened
To God's words,
To God's words.

- 6 **Art and Craft Activity:** A crayon-resist painting. God told Abraham to look at the sky and to try to count the stars. [Genesis 15:5-6]



The children draw the night sky on paper. Bright light colours should be used and the crayon should be put on thickly. Cover the drawing with thin powder paint. Use black for this activity. The crayon will resist the paint and the stars will shine brightly against the black

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 7 Discuss the fact that God loves each and every one very much. **God always keeps promises.** We need to trust God the way Abraham and Sarah trusted God.
- 8 Let the children **act out the story** of Abraham and Sarah.
- 9 Invite the children talk about **hospitality**. Abraham invited the three strangers into his tent. He gave them things to eat and he was very welcoming. Extend this to greeting teachers at school and welcoming visitors to the school as well as making new children feel welcome.

LESSON 22: Samuel and King David



AIM

To give the children the opportunity of hearing and participating in a story from the Bible (5.4.3, 8.3.1, 8.6.1)

OUTCOME

Learners retell the story of Samuel and King David and recognise that it is found in the Bible.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Appearances:** Have two boxes. One should be beautifully wrapped and beribboned like a present, and the other should look plain and uninteresting. Ask the children which box they would choose and let them give some reason for the choice. Open the boxes. The fancy box could contain something like crumpled newspaper. Have small sweets in the plain box for the children to share. This is to give the children some idea that appearances can be deceptive. Don't belabour the point.
- 2 **Samuel Chooses A King** [(1 Samuel 16)]

An echo pantomime: ask the children simply to repeat each gesture that you make. The words that the children will speak are: "God looks at the heart." [1 Samuel 16:7]. Today we are going to hear a story a story that comes from the first part of the Bible, the Old Testament. (Remind the children of the story of God calling Samuel from the previous lesson.)

When Samuel grew to be a man, God spoke to him. God wanted him to go and choose a king for the people. But Samuel didn't know how to choose a king.

(Shake head to indicate no.)

God promised to go with Samuel and help him.

Samuel went to the house of a man called Jesse. *(Walk on the spot.)*

God had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be the king.

Samuel met the first son.

(Hold up one finger.)

He was tall and strong.

(Stand tall and hold arms up to indicate muscles)

But God did not choose him to be king.

(Shake head – say, "No. God looks at the heart.")

Samuel met the second son.

(Hold up two fingers.)

He was very clever.

(Smile and point to the head.)

But God did not choose him to be king.

(No. God looks at the heart.)

Samuel looked at all seven sons.

(Count seven fingers.)

But God did not choose any of them.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Two boxes, one wrapped and the other left plain (1)
- * Bible or Children's Bible (2)
- * Pliable cardboard strips for crowns (5)
- * An assortment of bright oddments for the crown (5)
- * Nursery Rhymes (7)
- * 🎵 *God Is Watching Over You* (8)

(No. God looks at the heart.)

Samuel was worried.

(Hold head and look worried.)

He asked Jesse if he had any other sons.

(Turn hands outwards.)

Jesse said, "Yes. My youngest son named David. He is looking after the sheep."

(Nod and point to a place in the distance.)

When Samuel saw David, God said that David was the one who had been chosen.

(Clap hands.)

Samuel said to David, "You will be king!"

(Smile and point to the person nearest you.)

3 Prayer: Dear God,

When I have something hard to do

I remember that I can turn to you.

You are always there to help me

Here and at home with my family.

You speak to me softly in my heart

And I know you are there from the start.

Thank you, dear God.

Amen.

4 Listening: We listen to God's stories when we go to church. Each Sunday we hear a different part of God's story book. The reader says, "The word of the Lord" and we say, "Thanks be to God."

5 Crowns: Give each child a strip of light cardboard between 12 and 15 cm wide. Have assorted collage materials such as, foil, coloured shapes, bits of fabric and anything that shines to glue to the cardboard. Spray-painted or dyed pasta shapes can be added to the collage materials. The completed strip is then measured to fit the child and stapled by the teacher to form a ring.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

6 Retelling the story: The children can play at being kings and queens for the day. The children could also be encouraged to take the crown home and retell the story to their families.

7 Nursery rhymes: Old King Cole; Sing a Song of Sixpence.

8 Song: *God Is Watching Over You.*

9 Children memorise the following:

Human beings see the outside, but God looks into the heart. [1 Samuel 16:7]

LESSON 23: Jesus and the Children



AIM

To show the children that the Bible consists of two main parts, the Old and New Testaments, and to help them relate to Jesus with a story from the second part. (7.3, 7.5, 8.6.1)

OUTCOME

Learners realise that they can have a personal relationship with Jesus.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

11 Finger play: The Bible

(Start with hands as in prayer.)

Open up the Bible,

(Open hands like a book.)

And you will clearly see:

(Make circles with thumb and index finger and put over eyes.)

Stories of God's great love

(Put hands on heart.)

Written for you and me.

(Point to 'you' and 'me'.)

Open up the Bible,

(Repeat gestures of 1st verse.)

And you will clearly see

Stories of God's family:

(Open arms as in an embrace.)

Just like you and me!

12 The Bible: Hold the Bible reverently and respectfully. Ask questions in order to revise the previous lesson, for example: What is the first thing we read about in the Bible? What do the stories in the Bible tell us about? (God's love) Do you remember the story of Samuel? Who called Samuel?

13 Old and New Testament: Show the children the Bible and tell them that the Bible contains two important parts. Show them the pictures from the New Testament and lead them to understand that the stories in the New Testament tell us about Jesus.

14 Jesus and the children [Matthew 19:13-15]

Tell the story. Set the scene – many people had come to see Jesus and hear him speak. The children couldn't see over the people's heads. They wanted to get closer but it wasn't easy. Let the children imagine that they were there, too. The children could hear the sound of Jesus' voice and even though they could not understand everything he was saying, his voice sounded like that of a friend. The children's parents realised how much their children wanted to be with Jesus. The parents wanted Jesus to bless their children, but when they started bringing their children forward some grown-ups stopped them and told them to

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Finger play (1)
- * Bible (2) (4)
- * Pictures of Jesus, particularly with children (4)
- * ♪ *Jesus Loves Me* (6) (11)
- * A prepared poster, paper for drawing, crayons or pastels (9)
- * Children's illustrated Bibles and Bible story books (10)

go away. They said that Jesus was too busy to speak to the children. Jesus stopped talking and looked at the children. He smiled at them and they smiled back. Then Jesus said, “Don’t stop the children from coming to me. We can all learn a lot from talking to children.” Jesus held out his arms to them and he told them how much he loved them.

- 15 **Talk about the story:** Have you ever had people tell you to go away because they are busy? Or because grown-ups are talking? How did you feel? The children in the story felt that way, too. What did Jesus say? How did they feel? Jesus showed the children that he loved them. Jesus loves you, too.

- 16 **Sing:** *Jesus Loves Me*. Here are some of the words:

Jesus loves me this I know,
for the Bible tells me so,
little ones to him belong,
We are weak but he is strong.

- 17 **Church:** When we go to church, we come together and we listen to God’s story book, the Bible. God’s story book is also called ‘God’s word’.

- 18 **Prayer:** Having placed the Bible in a prominent position on the prayer table, remind the children that this story comes from the Bible, from the New Testament.

The children respond with ‘Thank you,
Jesus.’ Jesus says he loves us. (R)
Jesus calls us to be with him. (R)
Jesus says we can talk to him anytime. (R)
Jesus is always there to help us. (R)

- 19 **Art:** Give the children suitably sized pieces of paper and have the children draw themselves. Ahead of time, prepare a large poster which has a picture of Jesus on it. The children will cut out their pictures and the pictures will be pasted on to the poster so that the children can be seen with Jesus.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 20 **Look at books:** Let the children handle and look at Bible story books and pictures of stories from the Bible.

- 21 Add **actions** to the song *Jesus Loves Me*.

- 22 **Learn the responses:** When the reader has finished he/she says, ‘The word of the Lord’ and we reply, ‘Thanks be to God’.

When the priest has read from the New Testament, he says, ‘The gospel of the Lord’. We say, ‘Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.’

- 23 Children **memorise:** The kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like children. [Matthew 19:14]

LESSON 24: Jesus the Storyteller



AIM

To help the children discover that Jesus told stories and that we can enjoy and learn from these and other stories (4.2.3, 7.3, 8.3.1, 8.6.1)

OUTCOME

Learners know that Jesus told stories and are familiar with one of them.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Stories:** The children sit in a ring. Everybody likes to hear stories. Friends often tell each other stories. They talk about where they went and what they did and what they saw. How do stories often begin? (Once upon a time) What is your favourite 'Once upon a time' story?
- 2 **Bible:** Hold up the Bible. Ask the children if this is a storybook. Ask what their favourite story might be from the Bible. Ask when and where they might hear stories from the Bible. At home, in school, in church?
- 3 **Exercise:** Finger play
(Start with hands as in prayer.)
 Open up the Bible,
(Open hands like a book.)
 And you will clearly see:
(Make circles with thumb and index finger and put over eyes.)
 Stories of God's great love
(Put hands on heart.)
 Written for you and me.
(Point to 'you' and 'me'.)
 Open up the Bible,
(Repeat gestures of 1st verse.)
 And you will clearly see
 Stories of God's family:
(Open arms as in an embrace.)
 Just like you and me!
- 4 **Jesus tells stories:** Remind the children of the story from the Bible about how Jesus loves children (LESSON 23). Jesus was telling people stories at the time. Everybody wanted to hear the stories. Ask the children to imagine that they are sitting next to Jesus, waiting for him to tell them a story.
- 5 **A parable:** The Lost Sheep [Luke 15:1-7]
 Everyone was looking at Jesus and everyone was listening. Everyone wanted to know what God was like and how much God loves people. Jesus told them this story.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Bible and story books (2)
- * Finger play (3)
- * 🎵 *God Is So Good* (7)
- * Play dough, plasticine, or simple outlines of sheep that can be used as templates, cotton wool, string, coat hangers, glue, crayons (8)

day he took them out to where the grass was sweet and green and fresh. The sheep enjoyed the green grass and the soon began to grow bigger and stronger.

The shepherd watched over them all day. He made sure no wild animals came and snatched them away. He wanted his sheep to be safe and happy. In the late afternoon he would lead them back to the sheep fold where they would be safe and have a warm place to sleep during the night. As each one went through the gate of the sheepfold he would count them. When he got up to the number one hundred, he would breathe a sigh of relief because they were all safe. He would then close the gate and the shepherd would roll out his sleeping bag and take his pillow and he himself would sleep in front of the gate so that no animal could get in and eat his sheep.

One evening as he was counting his sheep, ...96, 97, 98, 99...he found that one of his sheep was missing. He had to find it. He closed the gate and he left the ninety nine sheep to go to sleep. He then began looking, and looking for the lost sheep. He had to use a torch and he had his crook with him and he looked everywhere. It was almost morning when he heard the sound of bleating. He stopped and he listened. It was his sheep! He ran to rescue it where it had fallen and he carried it back to the sheepfold. The shepherd was so happy that he called his friends and neighbours and he said, "Come and celebrate with me. We will have a party for I have found the sheep that was lost." And Jesus told that people that God is just like the good shepherd.

- 6 **Discussion:** Ask questions about the story as a way of revising it and getting the children to articulate their thoughts.
- 7 **Sing:** A song of praise like *God Is So Good*. Also revise the acclamation 'Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.' (See LESSON 23, Additional Activity 12)

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 8 **Art and Craft:** Make sheep. Let the children fashion sheep from play dough or plasticine or have simple outlines of sheep which the children cut out and glue cotton wool on the body. These could be used to make mobiles. Suspend the sheep, using yarn or string, from a coat hanger. About five or six will fit on one hanger. If the sheep are not cut out, they may be used to form a frieze instead.
- 9 Tell **other stories** – fairy tales, fables, like those of Aesop, and stories from other faith traditions.
- 10 **Prayers:** Teach the children a short prayer from the Bible, such as:
 Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of your eye.
 Be it done to me according to your word.
 My Lord and my God.
 Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.