

5th Grade

Unit 1: The Bible

Week 2: The Bible is Authoritative

INTRODUCTIONS/ WEEKLY TRUTH:

- **Booklet:** Write today's truth: "**The Bible is authoritative**"

MEMORY WORK: Lead the group in a discussion about why memorization is important when it comes to scripture and other important works of faith. See if they remember the following points:

1. Verses from the Bible can help us as we live our lives. They give us perspective and keep our focus on God.
2. When you memorize something it is always there. Think about a song that keeps running through your head. Wouldn't it be better if that was the Word of God?
3. If you have a problem, you can remember what the Bible says to give you guidance or comfort.
4. When someone asks you a question about the Bible or Jesus you can answer it reliably with Scripture.

- **Booklet:** Have kids write the unit Bible verse: **All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. ~ 2 Timothy 3:16**
- **Game:** Reinforce the verse for today by using one of the activities in the Memory Verse Activity Box.

BIBLE TRIVIA

- **Booklet:** Have Instruct kids to fill in the blanks for the following Bible trivia and then go over the answers as a class. Use one of the games from the list to review the answers.
 1. **The Bible is a collection of books from different times and authors.**
 2. **The Bible has a total of 66 books in it.**
 3. **The books in the Bible are separated into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.**
 4. **The Old Testament was written before Jesus was born and is full of clues about His future coming.**
- **Game:** Reinforce today's trivia by doing an activity from the Trivia list.

APOSTLE'S CREED: Recite the Apostles' Creed together explaining that it is a summary of what Christians believe. Today we'll learn about how the Bible can be trusted as a source for our beliefs.

DISCUSSION: Distribute a Bible to each kid and have them bring their chairs to make a circle in the center of the room. *They may need to move the tables to the edge if there isn't enough room.

Ask volunteers to take turns reading the following verses and lead the group in a discussion. Be on the lookout in case you need to spend a little time helping kids get familiar with the Bible (Table of Contents, chapters and verses, etc.)

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:21.

What do you think it means that Scripture is "breathed out by God"? How does that connect to 2 Peter 1:21? *(The source of Scripture is God himself. He is the author and originator of all content. The Holy Spirit enabled human authors to write down the word of God.)*

Is there anything in the Bible that was made up by humans? Are there any other sources for Biblical content other than God himself? *(No. Help kids to see that these facts distinguish the Bible from every other book ever written.)*

Read Psalm 19:7-10.

What words are used in this passage to describe God's Word? (*perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true - write the words on the white board*)

How do these words reinforce the authority of the Bible? Could you realistically use these words to describe any other book? (*encourage discussion*)

Read Proverbs 30:5.

This verse says "every word of God proves true." Do you think this has been tested over the years? (*Help kids to see that Christians all over the world have found Scripture to be true for thousands of years.*)

Read Isaiah 40:8.

How long does this verse suggest God's Word will be authoritative? (*It will stand forever.*)

Read John 5:24.

What happens to those who truly believe in the authority of God's Word and trust in Jesus? (*They are not condemned for their sins but are saved by Jesus and are given the gift of eternal life with God.*)

Extended Discussion: What are some ways we can judge the authority of the Bible in addition to Scripture itself?

- **Fulfilled Prophecy:** The Bible is full of prophecies that have been filled just as they were written hundreds or even thousands of years later. The Old Testament contains over 300 prophecies of Jesus that were fulfilled.
- **More than 40 men over a period of more than 1,500 years wrote the Bible, yet there is no contradiction in who God is.** If man wrote the Bible on his own, cultural changes alone would make this impossible. It can only happen if Scripture is divinely inspired.
- **The endurance of the Bible shows its authority.** Starting with Eve in the Garden, Satan has been planting doubts and trying to encourage man to defy God's Word, yet thousands of years later, it is still the best selling book in history.
- **The Dead Sea Scrolls:** in 1947 a shepherd found a cave with ancient scrolls that were buried and undisturbed for 1900 years. Every book of the Old Testament was found except for the book of Esther. Despite all of the time that had passed, when they were compared to current Bibles, they were identical to 95% of our Bible and the remaining 5% were spelling and writing errors that didn't change the meaning at all. This can only happen if God protects His Word.

Summary: God's Word is eternal. It is completely true and trustworthy. If we want to know what to believe and how to live, we can open our Bibles to find answers that come straight from the creator of the universe. 2 John 1:9 says, "Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son." When we believe God's Word to us, we "have both the Father and the Son." When we reject God's Word or question its authority over us, we do not have God.

PRAYER: Ask kids if they have any prayer requests. Lead the kids in reciting the **Lord's Prayer** together, then pray as you feel led.

SNACK AND COMMUNITY TIME: Pass out snacks and water if needed. Spend the rest of the time in fellowship or consider doing the optional activity below. Alternately, you'll find board games and art supplies in the cubby.

- **Memory Challenges:** Allow any kids who want to attempt one of the memory challenges to do so.
- **Optional Activity:** Refer to the list of communal games if you feel like they're getting antsy and need more structure.