



I Wonder...

LESSON 5: LARGE-GROUP

How can the Bible be good for us when it is so old?

MAIN IDEA

Even though the Bible is an ancient book, it is important to people at all times. Not only has it lasted a long time already, but God promises that his Word will last forever. Since it is sure and secure, we can build our lives on the foundation of God's Word, which gives us stability in difficult and changing circumstances.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Psalm 19:7-11
- Matthew 24:35
- Hebrews 4:12
- Isaiah 40:8
- Matthew 7:24-27
- Psalm 119:9
- Hebrews 2:14-1

BIBLE VERSE

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:9, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10 – 15 minutes)



Play large-group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are any changes and additions needed for the Large-Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small-group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Bottle of vitamins
- Piece of poster board
- Printouts 1A, 1B, 1C
- Marker
- Tape OR an easel to display poster board

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10 – 15 minutes)

REVIEW

Quickly review last week's lesson and Bible verse:

- Sin is doing things against God's law or not doing things that God asks us to do.
- Sin makes a mess of our lives and separates us from God.
- When we confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness through Jesus, he forgives us and cleanses us.
- Review 1 John 1:9, which was last week's Bible verse.

HOW CAN THE BIBLE BE GOOD FOR US?

Tell the students that the Bible is a very old book. **The Bible was written over a period of 1,600 years and was completed about 2,000 years ago. The oldest parts of it are over 3,500 years old!**

Ask, **How can a book that is so old be helpful to us today?**

OBJECT LESSON: VITAMINS

Show the students the bottle of vitamins. (Note: Do NOT give the children any vitamins!) Ask the children to explain what vitamins do and how they help us. For your reference, here is some helpful information about vitamins:

- Vitamin C (like in oranges) helps you heal if you get a cut.
- Vitamin A (like in carrots) helps your eyes to be healthy and to see at night.
- Vitamin D (like in milk) helps your bones to be strong.
- A group of vitamins called the “B vitamins” (found in leafy vegetables) helps your body to have energy.

(Optional) Bring in the healthy food options (i.e., an orange, a carrot, milk, a leafy vegetable) to show students as you explain the vitamins. This could be in place of the bottle of vitamins or in addition to it.

Say, **Vitamins are very important for having a healthy body.**

- **Do you think that people who lived a long time ago needed the same vitamins that we need today? (Yes.)**
- **Do you think that people in the future will still need the same vitamins? (Yes.)**
- **So, vitamins give our body some essential things for it to be healthy and to grow, right?**

God’s Word, the Bible, is a lot like vitamins for the invisible parts of us—our minds and hearts. People long ago benefitted from hearing and reading the Bible, and people today benefit just as much. In fact, the Bible says that it is alive and active!

Read Hebrews 4:12 aloud together.

Ask, **How often do people usually take vitamins?** (Usually every day.)

- **How often should we spend time reading God’s Word?** (Every day.)
- **Why?** (It helps us to grow strong and healthy on the inside.)
- **What can the Bible do for us?**

Tell the students that as a group, you are going to make a list of ways that the Bible benefits us.

ACTIVITY

Have students split into three groups with at least one leader in each group. Give each group a printout, and have them read their assigned portion of Psalm 19:7–12. Read the passage aloud as a group and then ask the students to name some of the benefits described there. List these benefits on paper so that all the children can see the list. After a few minutes have the groups come back and share their list with the whole group. You may want to have a separate poster board to write the list for all students to see. Consider labeling the benefits of “Vitamin W” (as in “Word”). Here are some of the benefits:

- It refreshes our souls (Verse 7).
- It makes us wise (Verse 7).
- It gives us joy (Verse 8).
- It shows us the way to go (gives light) (Verse 8).
- It shows us what is right and wrong (Verse 9).
- There is a great reward for those who obey God’s Word (Verse 11).
- It helps us see our own hearts as they are (Verse 12).

WRAP IT UP

Read Psalm 119:9.

Say, **This Scripture was written by King David, who was one of the most famous kings in the Bible. He understood that if he was going to rule God’s people well, he would need the wisdom and purity that come from knowing God’s Word well.**

You may wish to play some Bible verse games to help the students remember the verse, if time allows.

Pray with the students and dismiss them into small groups.

Games



Play large-group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Dodgeball
- Large garbage can (or something else that won't be damaged by being knocked over)

LARGE-GROUP GAME: SPUD

Materials: A dodgeball

Object of game: To be the last player to spell "spud"

How to play: First, give all the players a number. Then have them gather in a circle with one student in the middle. Give the middle student the ball, and instruct them to throw the ball straight up and yell any number that goes with the students in play. The student whose number was called must run to the ball, and all the other students run away from the ball in any direction. When the player whose number was called has the ball, they yell "SPUD!", signaling all the other players to freeze. The player with the ball can then take three steps in any direction and throw the ball at one of the other players. All the other players must keep their feet still, but can move any of their bodies to try to avoid the ball. If the throwing player misses, he/she receives a letter to spell the word "spud"; if the throwing player hits another player, that hit player receives a letter. Play then repeats with the player that received a letter standing in the middle of the circle and throwing the ball up.

LARGE-GROUP GAME: CLUMP TAG

Materials: None

Object of game: To avoid being tagged for as long as possible

How to play: Designate two students to be "it". All the other students will run around the room trying to avoid being tagged. They can avoid being tagged in one of two ways: outrunning "it" or linking arms to form a group of the indicated number of students. For example, say, "The number is three," and all the students who are in "clumps" (groups of students with arms linked) of three will be safe from being tagged. Keep changing the designated number as the game progresses. The game ends when all students have been tagged.

LARGE-GROUP GAME: CAN-CAN

Materials: A large garbage can (or something else that won't be damaged by being knocked over)

Object of game: To be the last player to touch the can

How to play: Have all the students form a circle and hold hands around the trash can, which is placed in the center. Then, all the students can move around, but everyone must make sure that they do not touch the trash can in any way with any part of their body. If a student touches the can, they are out, and the people in the circle that were on either side of them will join hands. Students can also get out if they lose their grip on the player next to them and break the circle. In this case, both students are out. Play until only one student is left.



I Wonder...

LESSON 5: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

How can the Bible be good for us when it is so old?

MAIN IDEA

Even though the Bible is an ancient book, it is important to people at all times. Not only has it lasted a long time already, but God promises that his Word will last forever. Since it is sure and secure, we can build our lives on the foundation of God's Word, which gives us stability in difficult and changing circumstances.

BIBLE PASSAGES

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BIBLE VERSE

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1 John 1:9, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20 – 25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5 – 10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Handful of pennies (any coin will work)
- Trick candle
- Matches or a lighter
- Flashlight or battery-operated candle (alternative to candle)
- Set of dominos
- Container of sand
- Cookie pan
- Bible Verse Cards, 1 per child

Connect



Connect with the kids,
and show them that
they are heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group

ICEBREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group, or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

ACTIVITY

Say, **Today we have been talking about the Bible. Is it a very old book, isn't it?** Ask, **How old is the Bible?** (Almost 2,000 years old)

Put the pennies in the middle of the small group. Allow students to search through the pennies to find the oldest one.

Once students find the oldest one say, **This is the oldest penny that we could find.** Ask, **Is this penny worth any less than the others?**

Just because this penny is older than the others it doesn't make it any less valuable than the others.

The Bible is old but it is still valuable. It is much more valuable than a penny and has been around much longer.

Why is it still helpful for people today? (It provides spiritual nourishment [vitamins] to people.)

Will it continue to last into the future? (Yes)

Look up and read Matthew 24:35 and Isaiah 40:8 with the students.

What difference do you think it makes in a child's life that the Word of God remains and never changes? (It is constant. So many things change, but we can depend upon God and his Word because they never change and will always remain.)

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20 – 25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

OBJECT LESSON: THIS CANDLE WON'T GO OUT

Show the children the trick candle, but do not let them know that it is a trick candle. Light the candle, and explain that God's Word is like a light.

The Word of God, the Bible, shows us what is right and what is wrong. It is a guidebook for life, and it provides nourishment to our souls. Throughout the years, many people have tried to put out the light of God's Word (blow on the candle, which will go out and then re-light). It has been outlawed and burned. In the United States, we cannot teach the Bible in public schools. But no matter what laws are made to try and get rid of the Bible, it keeps on shining—because God says that his Word endures forever.

THE BIBLE IS AN ENDURING FOUNDATION

Read the story of the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7:24-27. Ask these questions:

- **Why did one house stand firm in the storm?** (It was built on rock.)
- **What is the rock?** (The Word of Jesus)
- **What is the sand that the other house was built on?** (Any other philosophies or religions)
- **Is it enough to know what the Bible says in order to survive the storms of life?** (No, Jesus said we had to put what it says into practice in our lives.)

We have seen that the Bible is reliable because God is the author. It tells us what God expects of us. It is also good for us and lasts for all time. We can count on it and build our lives on it.

ACTIVITY: BUILDING A STRONG TOWER

Divide the small group into two groups. Provide one group with some dominos, and allow them to build on a flat surface such as the floor or table. Provide the second group sand placed on a cookie pan(to contain the mess) and some dominos. Instruct each group to build a tower as high as they can.

After each group has finished, gather them together and ask,

- **Which tower is taller?**
- **Which tower is sturdier?**
- **Do any of you live in a house with sand as the foundation?**
- **Why is it important to build your house on a solid foundation?**

It's important to have a solid foundation or a house won't last long. Many people think they get to choose for themselves what is right and wrong but then there is not a solid foundation.

It is important that we use the Bible as our foundation for right as wrong because it doesn't change. Through the Bible, God tells us what is right and wrong. If we aren't using the Bible as a solid foundation for truth then we aren't building our beliefs on something that will last long.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5 – 10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Jesus said that the Scriptures pointed to him. If we want to build our lives in God’s way, we need to come to Jesus and ask him to forgive us for our sins and to be the leader of our life. Explain the Gospel story:

God created us to be with him. But our sins separate us from God.

Sin cannot be removed by good deeds or works. Paying the price for sin, Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead.

Everyone who believes in Jesus alone has eternal life!

Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!!!

Ask if any of the students want to invite Jesus to be their Savior. Pray with those who do that they might receive him as their Savior.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Ask the students for any additional prayer requests and pray with them.

(Optional) If time permits, review the Bible verse with the students.



I Wonder...

LESSON 5: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

How can the Bible be good for us when it is so old?

MAIN IDEA

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BIBLE VERSE

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Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20 – 25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5 – 10 minutes)

Prepare



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QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
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MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
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- Container of sand
- Cookie pan
- Bible Verse Cards, 1 per child

Connect



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICEBREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

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PRAY TOGETHER

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ACTIVITY:

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Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20 – 25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

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(5 – 10 minutes)

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RESPONSE & REFLECTION

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(Optional) If time permits, review the Bible verse with the students.

Bible Verse Cards

BIBLE VERSE

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Printout 1A

GROUP 1 **PSALM 119:7-8**

The instructions of the LORD are perfect,
reviving the soul.

The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

The commandments of the LORD are right,
bringing joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are clear,
giving insight for living.

BENEFITS OF "VITAMIN W"

Printout 1B

GROUP 2 **PSALM 119:9-10**

Reverence for the LORD is pure,
lasting forever.

The laws of the LORD are true;
each one is fair.

They are more desirable than gold,
even the finest gold.

They are sweeter than honey,
even honey dripping from the comb.

BENEFITS OF "VITAMIN W"

Printout 1C

GROUP 3 **PSALM 119:11-12**

They are a warning to your servant,
a great reward for those who obey them.
How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?
Cleanse me from these hidden faults.

BENEFITS OF "VITAMIN W"