***Sunday school materials 12/07/2020***

***BEST BOOK EVER?***

***Pawprints and Footsteps.***

The main theme of this session is: - “Let’s look inside the bible.”

According to Guinness World Records, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time with over 5 billion copies sold and distributed. (Yes, even more than Harry Potter! - although the first HP book does come in at no 7 of the best selling books of all time)

To Christians, The Bible is more than a user manual; it is the word of God, that shows us the path to eternal life.

As Christians, we believe the bible is true, and that God’s love for all mankind is seen through, the stories of His faithfulness of His people. The Old Testament Prophets and those scholars who wrote and recorded events whisper the name of Jesus. Better yet, in the New Testament, we find the ultimate example of God’s love in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We also see the birth of the early Church.

The Bible guides us through life’s daily challenges and brings us into a personal relationship with God.

So how do we start to share the bible with the young children we meet week by week? How do we grasp this narrative of epic scale and embed it into their daily lives? How do we capture young hearts with the knowledge and truth of scripture that will sustain them throughout their life?

***WARM UP: Different types of writings.***

Before the session gather a selection of types of writing. Novels, maps, instructions, manuals, letters, printed-off emails.

Spread the examples out and ask the children why you would look at each type of writing. Do we always read because we want information? Why else might we read?

Say that we can read the Bible for all these reasons too: in the Bible we find out how God wants us to live – it gives us instructions. It tells us history. And – like a letter – it also helps us to understand more about the writer, God.

***THE WHOLE STORY!***

<https://crossroadskidsclub.net/gods-story-gods-story/>

***WHAT IS IN THE BIBLE “LIBRARY”?***

[Download activity workshee](https://www.energize.uk.net/downloads/7-10CCom02sBibleBookshelf.pdf)t - Bible bookshelf pdf

This is a contents page for the Bible, written out on different pages. They will need to cut out the pages and fasten them together, either with staples or with fasteners, to make a book. They can decorate the front cover and they might like to colour in the names of the books as well.

Say that as they get to know what is in the Bible better they can write in their booklet where you find particular helpful verses. For instance, the story of Jesus is in the gospels.

***Work out:***

***What is the Old Testament and what is the New Testament?***

***How many books are there in the Bible?***

***WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE STORY?***

What is your favourite story?

Let the children share what story is their favourite, why they like it, which character is their favourite etc.

Explain that the Bible is a collection of true stories that people collected to help us understand what God is like and how we can live how God intends.

Ask them to share what their favourite Bible story is and why. Are these stories as full of adventure? You could draw a picture or make a collage from that favourite story.

***MEMORY VERSE***

*“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”*

*Psalm 119 v 11*

Get kids to think of an action for “hidden”, “word”, “Heart”, “sin” and “you”.

They will probably have several suggestions for each; choose one action for each word from those presented.

Say the verse out loud, asking the children to do the actions they have just decided when they hear the words that they have made actions for.

Repeat the verse more quickly so that they have to do the actions faster.

On the third time, ask the children to join in with the words as well as the actions.

Any who want to do the verse by themselves can do so after this.

The Point: To encourage young people to learn the Bible.

***PRACTICE FINDING THE WAY AROUND A BIBLE - “Sword drill”***

Give each child a Bible.

Ask the children to look at the contents page and explain how the Bible is made up of different books. Turn to Genesis and explain that each book is divided into chapters – look for chapter headings- and each chapter is divided into verses. Explain that this helps us to find places in the Bible more easily.

Optional: To help the children become more familiar with finding references, hold a short “sword drill” where the children have to see who can be quickest to find a verse you call out.

Call out such verses as Romans 8:28, John 3:16, Psalm 23:1, Acts 1:8, 1 John 3:16.

See how quickly they can find the verse. If more than 1 child playing you could give rewards.

***WORSHIP:***

For younger kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahHWtvOmt2E>

For older kids: Tauren Wells is a brilliant young Christian artist : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iDuZv_5MQk>