***Sunday school materials 19/07/2020***

***The Bible part 2. A guide to life?***

***Pawprints and Footsteps***

***Introduction:***

The Bible is boring, irrelevant and we're all too busy to read it…

Well, I hope you believe that's not true!! In fact, the Bible is packed full of exciting stories, can offer great advice and guidance for our lives and is a source of great strength and comfort for those who take the time to read it. Not only that, but the Bible is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16) – containing words which have the power to change lives.

Sadly, many young people won't share this view of the Bible. Their assumptions and experiences have completely put them off. Some will have struggled with unfamiliar language and cultural references.

So how can we encourage and enthuse young people to get into the Bible?

The internet has lots of great Bible based web sites and there are some great audio and visual resources around that present scripture in a relevant and professional way. You can find many translations online here <https://www.biblegateway.com/> or <https://www.youversion.com/products/>

The Bible is our God-given, guidebook for life.

#### ***GAME - Say what you see!***

Cards with simple shapes drawn on them (e.g. the outline of a house), paper, pens.

If you can, work in a pair and sit back-to-back. Give 1 person from each pair a card with a simple shape drawn on it. Give the other a pen and some paper. Challenge the person with the card to describe the shape on it to their partner who, by following their instructions, should try and draw the shape. Compare what's been drawn with the original.

The Point: Sometimes we need instructions/guidance to help us.

***GAME: Where do we get instructions from?***

[Download activity worksheet](https://www.energize.uk.net/downloads/11%20-%2014%201_08%20signs_20040216214447.pdf)

Have a look at the signs and symbols sheet, and identify as many as possible (give bonus points for comedy answers).

The Point: To get the young people thinking about the different ways we receive guidance and instructions.

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#### ***QUIZ: BIBLE GUESSES!***

Use this quiz to introduce your kids to some Bible facts. You could just ask the quiz questions or get the young people to vote with their feet or move to different parts of the room based upon their answer.

1. How many Books are there in the Bible? (66)

2. How many chapters are there in the Bible – a. 1189 or b. 589? (a)

3. How many verses are there in the Bible – a. 21,101 or b. 31,101? (b)

4. How many times does the word ‘God' appear in the Bible – a. 3358 or b. 2358? (a)

5. How many different people wrote the Bible – a. 110 or b. 40? (40)

6. True or false – the word ‘Christian' appears only 3 times in the Bible? (True)

7. True or false – there are more lions mentioned in the Bible than dogs? (True)

8. True or false – the shortest verse in the Bible is 2 words? (True – John 11:35)

9. True or false – the first bird in the Bible is a dove? (False – it's a raven, Gen 8:7)

10. How long would it take the average person to read the Bible out loud? (70 hours!)

Ask if they think that a book written thousands of years ago in a completely different culture can still be relevant today (draw attention to the massive readership and amount of languages the Bible is translated into).

If you have one, share a testimony of how the Bible has guided/influenced you.

The Point: To enable your young people to think about the relevance of the Bible today

***The Word of God is “LIKE” … (***

***BIBLE STUDY for older kids)***

The Bible is described as ‘like’ a lot of different things.

These different objects can give us clues about how Christians can use the Bible. As we think about how we might use these objects it can give us some clues about how we can use the Bible.

We have used

Hebrews 4:12 The word of the Lord is living and active, sharper than a two-edged ***sword.***

James 1:22-24  ***a mirror***

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a ***lamp*** to guide my feet and a ***light*** for my path.

Matthew 4:4 Man shall not live by ***bread*** alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

One of the ways the Bible is described is as a lamp to our path.

Can you find the darkest place in your house? Turn off the lights!

When you have done that turn on the torch and ask the children to say what difference the torch makes.

Explain that the Bible is like a torch that helps us see which way to go in our lives. How could the Bible be like the other things it is described to be like?

***BIBLE STUDY 2***

Read Psalm 119:9-16

* How can we help ourselves to live in a good way that will please God?
* What does the writer of this Psalm do with God's words?
* Do you think that this makes a difference to his life?

Read Psalm 119:97-104

* Which people is the writer wiser than?
* How do you think that knowing the Bible can make us wise?

Read 2 Timothy 3:15-4:2

* What things can God's word be used for?
* What should we do with God's word?

 The Point: To show why reading the Bible is important.

***PRAYER TIME: LISTEN TO GOD.***

Say that there are two ways that we can read the Bible. The first is to study it – to read what one part of the Bible says and to look at other verses and to compare them. The other is to read a small bit and then to ask God what he wants to say to us about this verse today. When you think about the Bible in this way what you hear might be a lot more personal – just for you.

Say that we are going to look at the Bible in this way now. Make yourselves comfortable and read a Bible verse or 2. (Suggested verses: Psalm 23, Romans 8:38, 39, John 10:1-6, Colossians 1:15-20. Better still, pray and ask God which verse he would like you to use.)

Give space and peace to think about these verses and ask God what he might be saying.. You can provide paper and pens in case the children want to write down what God is saying (and to occupy those who won’t take part).

You may like to give children the opportunity to share what God has said to them. Say that even if they find it hard to understand the Bible they can try this any time they like.

The Point: To give the children the opportunity to listen to God’s word and to ask God what he is saying to them.

***BIBLE READING PROMISE.***

Hand out post-its and paper. Suggest writing a promise to read the Bible over the next week on their post-it-note. Make sure it is achievable e.g. to read a Psalm each night, to read through a Gospel, to learn a verse off by heart or to follow a Bible study for a week.

Encourage the young people to stick the post-it-note somewhere they will see it each day e.g. on a mirror, hairbrush, bedside table…

The Point: To encourage the young people to read their bibles through the following week.

***Finding a Bible that works for you -***

There are loads of Bibles, standard ones, study ones, youth ones etc etc.

Have a look here - 40 pages of Bibles!!!

<https://standrewsbookshop.co.uk/product-category/bibles/>

Do you see any that might suit you? Take a look at children’s Bibles too - or choose a translation - New International Version NIV is a good reliable one.

Or take a look at some of these websites for Bible inspiration:

* [www.rejesus.co.uk](http://www.rejesus.co.uk/) (All about Jesus, includes modern day ideas of what He might have looked like and various Bible passages and stories)
* [www.soulsurvivor.com](http://www.soulsurvivor.com/) (Look at Soul Action, Time to Reflect)
* [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com/) (An online Bible search engine, you can find any Bible passage on here and in several different translations)
* [www.bible.com](http://www.bible.com/) (various Bible study aids, daily Bible verses etc. as well as a comprehensive Bible search engine)
* [www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/) (A good source of resources available to purchase online as well as a free daily Bible guide)
* Youversion smartphone app is brilliant and easy to use.

Use the rest of the session to let the young people explore studies and guides, different translations, web sites etc… ask them to report back on which they think would be helpful.

The Point: To provide practical ways that young people can get into the Bible.

***BIBLE READING NOTES:*** If you would like some daily Bible reading notes to get into a Bible reading habit let me know and I can get some!

***WORSHIP:***

A bit of quiet kids worship to help focus, pray and concentrate.

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