

# THE GREATEST BOOK

Faith begins with  
God's Word!

2 Kings 22

Psalm 117

Mark 11:22

## MIGHTY MEMORY VERSE

Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Proverbs 30:5

## SESSION OBJECTIVES

During this session, children will

- ★ realize that the Bible is God's inspired Word
- ★ discover how the Bible was found
- ★ examine how the Bible is organized
- ★ express thanks for God's loving gift

## SESSION SUPPLIES

- ★ Bibles
- ★ a cup of water
- ★ masking tape or duct tape
- ★ aluminum pie pans
- ★ brass paper fasteners
- ★ scissors and tape
- ★ paper and markers
- ★ blue and yellow ribbon
- ★ photocopies of the round icons (page 123)
- ★ photocopies of the Power Page! (page 19)

## BIBLE BACKGROUND

Whenever we want someone to know we're serious and that our word can be trusted, we commit that word to writing. Whether it's a contract, an autobiography, or a signature, when something is put into writing, it's a recorded testimony of our word for everyone to see. The written word inspires faith and assurance, as is evidenced by the very title "Deed of Trust." In much the same way, God wanted us to have his Word committed to writing so there could be no mistake of what he said, what he promised, or what he commanded. God knew it would be through this written record that faith begins and grows stronger—for when we know what God says, we can begin to trust what he does.

Kids need to understand that God's Word in the Bible is true, power-filled, and to be trusted. Help kids move beyond merely viewing the Bible as a nice gift from God to

realize instead that the Bible holds the roots of our fundamental faith and foundation as Christians. For when we know and understand what God is saying, we begin trusting his will and ways in our lives.

## **POWER** focus

Before class, gather a cup of water, tape, a piece of aluminum foil, and markers.

Welcome kids and invite them to form five groups. Hand each group an item and challenge them to brainstorm various uses for their items and why they're valuable. After several minutes, have groups share their creative ideas and explanations. Then ask:

- ★ **Was any item more useful than another? Explain.**
- ★ **Could any one item meet every need we have? Why or why not?**
- ★ **Which items can help us live? help us learn? help us stay safe? draw us closer to God?**
- ★ **Is there anything in the world that can do *all* these things for us? Explain.**

Say: **These items are useful in their own ways, but we've discovered that no one thing can meet our every need or draw us nearer to God. But there is something that can do all these things and more. What do you think that could be?** Invite kids to share their ideas, then hold up the Bible and say: **That something is the Bible!** Ask:

- ★ **How can the Bible teach us? protect us? help us live?**
- ★ **How can the Bible draw us nearer to God? help our faith grow?**

Say: **The Bible does all these things and more! In fact, the Bible even feeds our hearts, minds, and spirits. Today, we'll be learning that the Bible is God's Word and is his special gift of love to us. We'll explore how the Bible was written, how it's organized, and how the Bible helps us have strong faith. Plus, we'll be learning a new Mighty Memory Verse that tells us three powerful things about God's Word! Right now, let's discover the surprising way the first part of the Bible was found and how one king's faith turned a whole kingdom toward God!**

## **THE MIGHTY MESSAGE**

Before class, cut the blue and yellow ribbons into 8-inch lengths. Cut one of each color for every child and one extra blue ribbon. Set aside the yellow rib-

bons for the Super Scripture activity. You'll also need to photocopy on stiff paper the icons from page 123. Cut apart the icons illustrating the Bible and the Mighty Memory Verse, one per child. Set aside the Mighty Memory Verse icons for later in the lesson, then place the remainder of the icons in a folder to use with different lessons throughout the rest of this book.

Finally, write "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. (Proverbs 30:5)" on a sheet of paper. Roll the paper and tie it with a ribbon to make a scroll. Hide the scroll in the room for the kids to find later.

Gather kids and say: **Did you know that we didn't always have the Bible as we know it? At one time, people lost the written words and just passed God's laws on by word of mouth. After a while, God's people had stopped obeying God because they had forgotten what God's Word said. Then a young king rose to power in**

**Jerusalem—way before Jesus was born. King Josiah loved God and had great faith in him. And to honor God, King Josiah wanted to clean the temple, which was in bad repair. While cleaning, the king's men found a scroll. See if you can search our room until you find a scroll.**

Have kids look until the scroll is found, then return to the group. Hold up the scroll and say: **The king's secretary read the scroll to find out what it was. What do you think it was?** Allow kids to tell their ideas, then say: **The scroll was the Book of the Law that contained God's words to us! It was the first portion of our Bible! When King Josiah read God's Word, he discovered his people had been disobeying God! So what do you think King Josiah did then?**

Pause for kids to comment. **King Josiah gathered the people and read God's Word to them. Then the people made new commitments or promises to give God their faith and obedience. God's Word taught them to obey and have faith in him!** Ask:

- ★ Why did God's people need his Word in King Josiah's day?
- ★ Why do we need God's Word in our lives today?
- ★ Why did God want us to have the Bible?
- ★ How was giving us the Bible a demonstration of God's love?

### POWER POINTERS

Inform kids that the word "testament" comes from a Latin word meaning covenant or promise with God. What appropriate names, then, are the Old and New Testaments!

Say: **King Josiah and his men found a portion of the Bible, and that scroll contained important words that taught people about obeying, following, and having faith in God. In fact, King Josiah and his men learned that their faith could only begin when they knew what God's Word said! Our Bible today looks a bit different and has even more of God's words, but we can learn the same things from the Bible today that King Josiah learned so long ago. That's because God's words are true and unchanging! God inspired people to write down his words, so we can have faith in God's Word as always true, always right, and never changing. Let's untie the ribbon on our scroll and read it aloud.**

Have a volunteer untie the ribbon and read the scroll aloud. Say: **Wow! Those are important words to remember, and we'll learn more about those words later. But first let's make bookmarks to help us remember where our Bible story came from.**

Hand each child a blue ribbon and a Bible icon. Instruct kids to color the icon and cut out the circle. Then tape (or staple) the icon to one end of the ribbon. Help kids place their bookmarks in 2 Kings 22. Be sure the paper icons are sticking out of the tops of the Bibles.

Say: **These ribbon bookmarks will help us find important things in the Bible, and we'll be adding to them for several weeks. Be sure to bring your Bibles next week so we can add another ribbon. Right now, let's learn more about the Bible and why we can have faith in God's Word!**

(Keep extra ribbons and icons on hand in case someone forgets to bring a bookmark next week and needs to make a new one.)

## THE MESSAGE IN MOTION

Hold up the Bible and say: **We've been learning that the Bible is God's Word and that God lovingly gave us the Bible to teach us, to strengthen our faith, and to obey. But how is the Bible organized? What are the different sections, and how can they help us? Well, let's see if we can act it all out! First, the Bible is one book about God's love.** Have children form one group in the center of the room. **The Bible is also divided into two main sections.** Form two groups but make one group larger. **The bigger section is called the Old Testament, and the smaller section is the New Testament. Which do you think comes first?** Have the larger "Old

Testament” group stand in front of the smaller “New Testament” group.

Say: **The Old Testament comes first and tells about how God made the earth and people. It also tells how he gave us his commandments and rules for living. The Old Testament takes place before Jesus’ birth—before Jesus brought us new love and forgiveness!**

**The New Testament begins at Jesus’ birth and tells us about his ministry, his death, and his resurrection. The New Testament tells us how the church began and grew. And the New Testament tells us what heaven will be like!**

**The Old Testament has 39 books in it, while the New Testament has only 27 books in it—39, 27, Old, New, earth, heaven!** Point to the Old Testament group when you say the words *39, old, and earth*. Point to the New Testament group on the words *27, new, and heaven*.

Repeat the rhyme three more times as you point with each word. Then lead children in repeating the rhyme below and switching roles after several repetitions. Encourage kids to clap and stomp with the rhythm and to softly shout their parts.

**39** (Old Testament group)

**27** (New Testament group)

**Old** (Old Testament group)

**New** (New Testament group)

**Earth** (Old Testament group)

**Heaven!** (New Testament group)

After kids become familiar with the rhyme, say: **This rhyme helps us remember how the Bible is divided, how many books are in the Old and the New Testaments, and what each section is generally about—and it’s fun to say! God’s Word is true throughout the Bible, so we can have faith in it. It’s important to know that we can trust any Scripture verse we read in the Bible. Now let’s learn a new Mighty Memory Verse as we discover even more about God’s Word in the Bible and how it helps our faith grow.**

## **SUPER SCRIPTURE**

Before class, copy the Scripture strips for Proverbs 30:5 on page 127. Be sure to have enough brass paper fasteners for kids to decorate the Scripture shields.

Gather kids and read the scroll from *The Mighty Message*. Say: **When have we heard this verse today? It was on our pretend scroll, and it happens to be our new Mighty Memory Verse. We’ll be working to learn this**

verse over the next few weeks. For now, let's repeat the verse and see what it says.

Have kids repeat the verse in two sections. First, have kids repeat "Every word of God is flawless," then say: **Flawless means without mistakes and true. This part of the verse is telling us that God's Word is always truthful.** Then repeat the next portion of the verse, "he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." Say: **This part of the verse is saying that God is like a shield if we have faith in him. What does a shield do for us?** Invite kids to share their thoughts, then ask:

- ★ Why is it good that God is like a shield for us?
- ★ How does knowing that God's Word is true help us have faith in him?
- ★ Why do you think faith begins when we know what God's Word says?

Repeat the entire verse three more times aloud. Say: **This verse has a very important direction for us to follow. We're to love God's Word and use it to help, protect, encourage, teach, follow, and obey God. And because God's Word in the Bible is true, we can have faith in what the Bible says. Let's make cool Scripture shields to remind us that God's Word is like a shield when we learn and use it in our lives!**

Show kids how to make shields by turning pie pans upside down and attaching brass paper fasteners around the bottom edge. Spread the ends of the paper fasteners under the pan to attach them. Then have children use markers to decorate the Scripture strips for Proverbs 30:5 and glue them to the centers of their shields.



When the shields are complete, have kids stand in a circle. Make a sticky ball from a long piece of masking tape or duct tape and toss the ball to a child as you say, "Every word of God is flawless." Have the child catch the ball on his shield and repeat the next portion of the verse ("He is a shield to those who take refuge in him"). Then have the child toss the tape ball back to you. Continue until everyone has had a turn.

End by handing kids lengths of yellow ribbon and the Mighty Memory Verse icons. Tape the icons to one end of the ribbons and have kids mark Proverbs 30:5 with their bookmarks. Encourage them to read the Mighty Memory Verse often this week.



Say: **Because God's Word is always true, we can have faith in all he says. In Mark 11:22, Jesus said, "Have faith in God." Jesus knew we can**

trust God and his Word in the Bible. What a gift God has given us in the Bible! Let's show our thankfulness by offering God a special promise and prayer about the Bible.

## A POWERFUL PROMISE

Have kids sit in a circle and hold their Bibles. Ask for a moment of silence, then say: **We've learned today that God lovingly gave us the Bible to learn from, to obey, and to help us draw closer to him. We discovered that King Josiah found the first portion of the Bible while cleaning the temple. And we've worked on the Mighty Memory Verse that tells us God's word is true and like a shield when we have faith in him. Proverbs 30:5 says** (pause and encourage kids to repeat the verse with you), **"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."**

Hold up the Bible and say: **Because we know God is truthful, we trust him. God wants us to read the Bible, so let's make a promise to read a portion from the Bible each day this week. As we pass the Bible around the circle, we can say, "I want to read the Bible each day, Lord."** Pass the Bible until everyone has had a chance to hold it.

Have children open their Bibles to Psalm 117. Say: **Reading the Bible is a wonderful way to honor God and to thank him for his wonderful gift of the Bible. Let's read a Psalm as a thank-you prayer to God for his powerful Word and loving faithfulness.**

Have volunteers each read a line of Psalm 117, then end with a corporate "amen." Say: **Use your bookmarks to help you read from the Bible tonight and each day this week! And remember that faith begins and is strengthened when we learn and use God's Word in our lives!**

Close with this responsive good-bye:

Leader: **May God's Word give you faith.**

Children: **And also you.**

Distribute the Power Page! take-home papers as kids are leaving. Thank children for coming and encourage them to keep their promises to God this week. Also remind kids to bring their Bibles and special bookmarks to class next week.

# POWER PAGE!

## - BIBLE MATH +

Use your Bible to match the numbers to what they describe.

- 39 books in the Bible
- 27 How many books of Timothy?
- 66 Gospels
- 1 New Testament
- 4 Old Testament
- 2 How many books of Judges?

## FIND IT!

Color and cut out the Find It box below. Then tape it to the inside cover of your Bible.

Noah	→	Genesis 6
The Ten Commandments	→	Deuteronomy 5:6-21
Jonah and the fish	→	Jonah 1:17-2:10
The Lord is my shepherd	→	Psalms 23
Christmas story	→	Luke 2:1-20
The Lord's Prayer	→	Luke 11:2-4
Jesus calms the storm	→	Matthew 8:23-27
Jesus feeds 5,000	→	John 6:1-13
Easter story	→	Matthew 27:45-28:10

## KEY CODE

Use the numbers under the letters to fill in the missing letters. Then see if you can repeat your **MIGHTY MEMORY VERSE** from memory!

EVERY \_\_\_\_\_ IS \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 13      1 6 10 5 6 11 9 6 5 8      11 4 2 1 4 13 7 7

HE \_\_\_\_\_ SHIELD \_\_\_\_\_ WHO TAKE REFUGE  
 12      8 7 2 7 4 5 3 6 3 12 6 7 13      1 6 3 2 10 11 9

\_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ M. Proverbs 30:5  
 8      12 8