

# Adventures with GOD!

## HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE (C.3.SPRING.10)

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Biblical Reference     | 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Matthew 6:25-34  |
| Key Verse              | 2 Timothy 3:16  |
| Key Concept            | The Holy Spirit will guide and help me understand God's truth   |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain how the Holy Spirit helps us understand God's word</li> <li>2. Name some of the questions to ask as we interpret a Bible passage</li> <li>3. Memorize the order of the books of the New Testament</li> </ol> |

### Life Application

For many centuries, Christians didn't have access to the Bible in the same way we have the privilege of today. Today, we can read the Bible in order to know God and God's purposes. We give thanks for the men and women who have translated the Bible into different languages so people all around the world can read God's word. We also give thanks for the Holy Spirit, who guides and helps interpret what we are reading. This week, our Bible study will focus on the step of interpretation.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

| Activity          | Materials                      | Time       |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| My GROW Adventure | GROW Adventure materials       | 5 minutes  |
| Opening Prayer    | Candle                         | 1 minute   |
| Bible Reading     | Bible                          | 5 minutes  |
| Introduction      | Illustration or drama          | 10 minutes |
| Learning Centers  | See instructions               | 15 minutes |
| Bible Exploration | Bible, questions, illustration | 15 minutes |
| Key Verse         | Craft materials                | 5 minutes  |
| My GROW Adventure | Review                         | 5 minutes  |
| Closing Prayer    | Candle                         | 1 minute   |

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at [CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god](http://CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god).

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 twice and ask children to respond.

**Question Examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

**Introduction:** Give children the opportunity to move up the ladder by memorizing the books of the Bible. Continue to encourage children to spend time memorizing the books of the Bible, as it will help them in their study of the Bible. Invite children to "observe" a scene, whether it's an illustration you've brought in, or maybe a wordless drama a couple volunteers will act out. After they've watched or observed, ask questions: What did you observe? Who? What? Where? Describe the scene. Have someone volunteer to write the answers on the board or a large piece of paper. Make sure they only offer observations, not interpretations or explanations. The



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lesson last week focused on what we observed in Matthew 6:25-34. This week, children will have the opportunity to interpret.

**Learning Centers:** Invite children to choose a center to go to. In the Center of Investigation, children will make an illustration showing the difference between observation and interpretation. In the Center of Experiments, children will observe and offer an explanation from their experiment (The result of the experiment happens because salt water is denser than ordinary tap water, the denser the liquid the easier it is for an object to float in it. The teacher can help with this station, adding important information for them to make their interpretation.). At the Center of Application, children will work on interpreting the Matthew 6:25-34 text. The information sheet needed at each of the Learning Centers can be found on page 8.

**Bible Exploration:** As children come back together, each group can share what they learned from their time at the Learning Centers. Talk through the difference between observation and interpretation. Read Matthew 6:25-34 together and review what they learned from observing the text. Then, ask children questions to help them interpret the text (refer to the questions used in last week's lesson). Ask children why it's important to remember that the Holy Spirit helps us to interpret the Bible. Allow children to share their ideas in their own words.

Next, pull out the illustration or refer to the drama they saw earlier. Ask children to explain what they saw. What was happening in the scene? Why? What does it mean? Explain how many times we offer an explanation without really taking the time to observe and see what's really going on. When we read the Bible, we need to carefully observe and ask questions before making judgments and offering explanations.

A Devotional Sheet can be found on page 9 for children to continue studying throughout the week.

**Key Verse:** Prepare craft materials for children to make an illustration that contains the words to the Key Verse.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).



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R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead.

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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## CENTER OF INVESTIGATION

The theme of this center will explore the difference between observation and interpretation.

1. Read Matthew 6:25-34 and comment on what you learned last week.
2. Take out the Information Sheet and on a big piece of paper, draw two columns and write the key questions for the following two steps of the Bible study:

### OBSERVATION

(Write key questions)

### INTERPRETATION

(Write key questions)

3. Brainstorm real life examples to help distinguish the differences between observation, explanation, and interpretation.

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## CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS

The focus of this Learning Center is to explore the difference between “observation” and “interpretation.” When we study the Bible, both of steps are crucial for us in understanding God’s word. It’s important to remember the Holy Spirit helps us to interpret what we read.

Try this experiment, then observe what you see. What materials do you have? What do you do with them? What is the result?

You will need:

Two clear drinking glasses

Two raw eggs

Salt

Spoon

Fill the first glass  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way full with water. Fill up the second glass halfway full of water and add 6 tbsps. of salt. Add one egg to each glass. What do you see?

Now try to explain the difference. What does this mean? How do your observations differ from what you expected to happen?

Ask the teacher what makes this happen.

Next, talk about what would’ve happened if you guessed the result before observing the materials and experiment? What happens when we try to interpret God’s word without first observing and asking questions about what we see? What happens when we don’t have all the information in order to give an explanation? How does the Holy Spirit help us interpret God’s word?

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## CENTER OF APPLICATION

The focus of this center will explore the process of interpreting the Bible passage. Use the information sheet to find the questions for the process of interpreting Matthew 6:25-34.

Read the Matthew 6:25-34 together.

Review the information you gathered from last week as you observe the text.

Look at the interpretation questions and answer them together.

If you could summarize the meaning of this Bible passage in one or two words, what would it be? Together, draw a picture that illustrates the Bible passage.

Talk together and make a list of the ways observation and interpretation help you to study God's word. Why is it important to study God's word?

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## INFORMATION SHEET

This guide will help you learn how to study the Bible.

A. Observe the Bible passage – questions to ask as you observe:

Who?

What?

When?

How?

Why?

Where?

B. Interpret the passage or find the significance of the passage – questions to ask as you interpret:

What is the author saying?

What does it mean for the people it was written for?

Why was it written?

What are the major themes?

How does this connect with the rest of the Bible?

C. Application – questions to ask as you apply this to life today

What does this mean for me? For us?

What implications does this have?

In what way can I apply these truths to my life?

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## DEVOTIONAL SHEET

This devotional sheet can be used at home to practice studying the Bible.

Read Matthew 8:23-27

Observations:

Interpretation:

Read Matthew 9:18-26

Observations:

Interpretation: