

# Adventures with GOD!

## GOD'S WORD WRITTEN IN BOOKS (C.3.SPRING.6)

Biblical Reference	Luke 1:1-4
Key Verse	2 Timothy 3:16
Key Concept	The word of God in my life keeps me connected to God.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the importance of the written word of God</li> <li>2. Draw a picture that represents how they imagine the different writers of the books of the Bible</li> <li>3. Say the books of the New Testament in order</li> </ol>

### Life Application

Children will reflect on the fundamental truth that the Bible is the word of God. Even as children open their Bibles, God is communicating with them. It's important for children to understand not only how the Bible was written, but also how they should read it. God loves children so much that God used many different ways to communicate with them. In the Bible, we encounter the story of God's love for humanity, as well as instructions on how to live lives pleasing to God.

### 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		10 minutes
Learning Centers		15 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, ladder illustration, books of the Bible	15 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 Luke 1:1-4 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:** "A trip without directions." Before class, prepare a pamphlet (fold a piece of paper accordion style), and on the front cover write, "Instructions for your trip." You can either leave the inside blank or print out words in a foreign language. Announce to children that you are very excited, because they are going to go on a trip. Ask children to use their imagination, and to get their suitcases ready. Ask children what they will pack. Give them each a copy of the pamphlet, instructing them not to open it until you say so. One your cue, children can open the pamphlet, and they will likely be surprised to find the inside blank. As they react to the blank pamphlet, apologize and say you're not sure why their pamphlets are blank when the one you received has instructions for the trip.



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Ask children to take their seats, and explain how this little exercise models what happens when people don't know how to read God's word, the Bible; It's as if they were living their lives without God's instruction and counsel. Or maybe they are seeking God's way, but no one has ever taught them how to read the Bible. Invite children to choose a Learning Center for the day. Memorize the Key Verse together.

**Learning Centers:** In the Learning Centers, children will reflect on God's word, the Bible. Prepare the materials and instructions at each center. Explain to children that they can go to whichever Learning Center they want to go to. When are finished at each of the centers, invite children to come together and sit in a circle.

**Bible Exploration:** After each group has had time to share, ask if they have any questions. Next, spend time talking about the Bible and what it contains. Explain that the Bible is made up of two parts: The Old Testament and The New Testament. During the time of Jesus, the Jews read the different books of the Old Testament. Jesus himself read and taught from the Old Testament; the Old Testament was an important part of Jesus' message. After Jesus' death and resurrection, he instructed his disciples to continue to meet and read from God's word. Jesus' disciples would meet together to eat, pray, and learn from God's word. Those who had been with Jesus would share about his teachings, life, death and resurrection. Many people began to believe that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. In order to help others to believe, the stories of Jesus were written down. Teachers, like Paul, began to write letters to churches to help them in their journey of following Jesus. All of these letters and stories were compiled to make up the New Testament.

Review the books of the New Testament together. This would be a good time to start a contest to see who can memorize the books of the Old and New Testament. In the introduction to the trimester, you'll find a suggestion to create a ladder illustration, with each stair representing a book of the Bible. Allow each child to create a symbol on a small piece of paper that represents him/her. As children memorize the books of the Bible, they can move their symbol up the ladder.

## **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 focus of this center will explore the Old and New Testament, to find instructions from God to help us love and follow in God's ways.

Instructions:

1. Read Matthew 4:16-19. How does Jesus use the Old Testament in his teachings? What does Jesus say about his connection to what was written in Isaiah?
2. Read Luke 1:1-4 and 2 Timothy 3:16. Why is it important to read both the Old and New Testament?
3. Make a list of all of the books of the Old Testament that you can remember. Then, look at the table of contents in your Bibles to find the names of the books you are missing. Once you are finished making a list of the books in the Old Testament, do the same with the New Testament.

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## CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS

The theme of this center will explore the different books of the Bible, both in the Old and New Testaments.

1. Prepare two envelopes with strips of paper with all of the books of the Bible written on them. Place all of the Old Testament books in one envelope, and all of the New Testament books in the other.
2. On a large sheet of paper, tape the books of the Old Testament in the correct order. On another large sheet of paper, do the same with the New Testament books. Try to order the books without looking at the Table of Contents, but if you get stuck, this is a good time to take a look.
3. Fill out the activity below by locating the books of the New Testament in order. Fill the correct books in the blank spaces.

BEFORE		AFTER
2 John		Jude
Galatians		Philippians
Philemon		James
2 Timothy		Philemon
1 Thessalonians		1 Timothy
1 Corinthians		Galatians
1 Peter		1 John
Matthew		Mark

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## **CENTER OF APPLICATION**

The teacher will give this group a game to help memorize the books of the Bible. There is one game for the New Testament, and one for the Old Testament. Divide into two groups and take turns playing each game. Instructions for the game are on pages 11-15.

After playing both games, creatively share what you learned with the rest of the group. For example, create a song with the books of the Bible, use flashcards, or draw a picture.

You should also be prepared to share why it's so important to memorize the books of the Bible.

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## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

### The Old Testament

Genesis	Amos
Exodus	Obadiah
Leviticus	Jonah
Numbers	Micah
Deuteronomy	Nahum
Joshua	Habakkuk
Judges	Zephaniah
Ruth	Haggai
1 Samuel	Zechariah
2 Samuel	Malachi
1 Kings	
2 Kings	
1 Chronicles	
2 Chronicles	
Ezra	
Nehemiah	
Esther	
Job	
Psalms	
Proverbs	
Ecclesiastes	
Song of Solomon	
Isaiah	
Jeremiah	
Lamentations	
Ezekiel	
Daniel	
Hosea	
Joel	



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## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE 2

The New Testament

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts (of the Apostles)

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

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## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE 3

<b>Genesis</b> (beginnings)	<b>Exodus</b> (exit)	<b>Leviticus</b> (offering)	<b>Numbers</b> (journeys)	<b>Deuteronomy</b> (law repeated)
<b>Joshua</b> (conquest)	<b>Judges</b> (judges)	<b>Ruth</b> (love story)	<b>1 Samuel</b> (Samuel)	<b>2 Samuel</b> (David)
<b>1 Kings</b> (separation)	<b>2 Kings</b> (captivity)	<b>1 Chronicles</b> (news coverage)	<b>2 Crónicas</b> (Solomon)	<b>Ezra</b> (temple)
<b>Nehemiah</b> (walls)	<b>Esther</b> (queen)	<b>Job</b> (suffering)	<b>Psalms</b> (hymns)	<b>Proverbs</b> (wisdom)
<b>Ecclesiastes</b> (vanity)	<b>Song of Solomon</b> (marriage)	<b>Isaiah</b> (redemption Jerusalem)	<b>Jeremiah</b> (judgment Jerusalem)	<b>Lamentations</b> (mourning)
<b>Ezekiel</b> (judgment temple)	<b>Daniel</b> (faith)	<b>Hosea</b> (love of God)	<b>Joel</b> (cry)	<b>Amos</b> (judgment of Israel)
<b>Obadiah</b> (ruin of Edom)	<b>Jonah</b> (missionary)	<b>Micah</b> (Judah and God)	<b>Nahum</b> (destruction)	<b>Habakkuk</b> (questions)
<b>Zephaniah</b> (judgment and blessing)	<b>Haggai</b> (rebuilding temple)	<b>Zechariah</b> (blessing Israel's future)	<b>Malachi</b> (going backwards)	
<b>Matthew</b> (Messiah/King)	<b>Mark</b> (Servant/Redeemer)	<b>Luke</b> (Perfect human)	<b>John</b> (Son of God)	<b>Acts</b> (Holy Spirit)
<b>Romans</b> (Gospel)	<b>1 Corinthians</b> (problems)	<b>2 Corinthians</b> (the true apostle)	<b>Galatians</b> (freedom)	<b>Ephesians</b> (body of Christ)
<b>Philippians</b> (joy)	<b>Colossians</b> (Lord of all)	<b>1 Thessalonians</b> (Faith and hope)	<b>2 Thessalonians</b> (the day of the Lord)	<b>1 Timothy</b> (Leadership manual)
<b>2 Timothy</b> (manual for battle)	<b>Titus</b> (manual for conduct)	<b>Philemon</b> (forgiveness)	<b>Hebrews</b> (Jesus Christ)	<b>James</b> (the faith in practice)
<b>1 Peter</b> (suffering)	<b>2 Peter</b> (false teachers)	<b>1 John</b> (friendship)	<b>2 John</b> (the woman)	<b>3 John</b> (Gaius)
<b>Jude</b> (false teachers)	<b>Revelation</b> (God's kingdom)			

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## GAME

### Books of the Old Testament

The goal of this game is to learn the books of the Old Testament. Make a game board before class using the books of the Bible list found on page 8. Write the names in order on the game board; there should be one space for each book of the Bible. Color each of the spaces with a different color, according to the classification in the list below (each section or type of literature should be marked with a different color.) You will also need to make game cards using the questions on pages 12-15.

The Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

History: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Poetry: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Rules of the game: Divide the class into two different teams. Mix and stack the question game cards. Using the dice, decide which team goes first (higher number goes first). The first team will choose a question card, and if they answer the question correctly, they will roll the dice to see how many spaces they advance. If the team doesn't answer it correctly, they will stay where they are and the second team will have a chance to answer. The first team to get around the board wins. This sheet can be used to check their answers.

Questions:

Which book talks about the first humans God created, the ways they disobeyed God, and why they had to leave the garden God made for them? (Genesis)

In which book do we find the story of God freeing people from Egypt? (Exodus)

If you wanted to know how to make a sacrifice to Yahweh, which book should you read? (Leviticus)

Where do we find the story of the talking donkey? (Numbers)



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Where do we find the story of Moses' death? (Deuteronomy)

In which book do we find the story about the great city whose walls came down? (Joshua)

Which book tells us the story about the strongest man in the world? (Judges)

Which book tells us the story of a young woman who left her home and followed her mother-in-law to a new home? (Ruth)

Which book talks about the first king of Israel? (1 Samuel)

Where can we find the story about the good king who helped the son of his friend? (2 Samuel)

Where can we find the story about the prophet that challenged the prophets of baal? (1 Kings)

Which book tells the story of a prophet taken to heaven? (2 Kings)

Which book gives us the names and history of the tribes of Israel? (1 Chronicles)

Which book do we find the story about the book of God that was lost and found? (2 Chronicles)

Which book was written by a priest who returned from captivity to restore the temple of God and teach the law of God? (Ezra)

Which book tells us the story of how the walls of Jerusalem were repaired? (Nehemiah)

Where can we find the story of the Jewish orphan girl who became queen? (Esther)

Where do we find the story of a man who was faithful to God even in the midst of suffering? (Job)

Which book was a hymn book of praise for the Israelites? (Psalms)

Which book is full of wisdom? (Proverbs)

Which book tells the story of a king looking for happiness in pleasure? (Ecclesiastes)

Which book is a dialogue between a husband and wife? (Song of Solomon)

In which book can we find the prophecies that are repeated during Christmas time to talk about the birth of Jesus? (Isaiah)

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Which book tells the story of the prophet that cried during captivity? (Jeremiah)

What book has been called the saddest book in the Bible? (Lamentations)

Where do we find the prophetic vision of the heavenly wheel? (Ezekiel)

Which book tells us the story of the person who was thrown into the lions den? (Daniel)

Where can we read about how God used the infidelity of a wife to teach about God's love for his people? (Hosea)

Which book compares the attack of the locusts to the punishment that God's people will experience for their disobedience? (Joel)

Which book used a prophet's vision about a ruined plate of fruit to illustrate the judgment of God against people? (Amos)

Which book tells us the story of how God was going to destroy the enemy of his people living in a city built between the Rocks? (Obadiah)

In which book do we find the story of the prophet swallowed by a big fish? (Jonah)

Which book says the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem? (Micah)

Which book tells of how God would destroy an evil city using a flood and the Babylonians? (Nahum)

Which book contains questions and responses between a prophet and God? (Habakkuk)

Which book begins with sadness and ends with a joyful song of love? (Zephaniah)

Which book was written by a prophet who begged God's people to finish building the temple of the Lord? (Haggai)

Which book tells us how the King of the Jews would enter the city of Jerusalem on a donkey? (Zechariah)

Which book predicts God sending a special prophet like Elijah before the Messiah came? (Malachi)

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Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

History: Acts

Paul's letters: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Letters: James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Hebrews

Prophecy: Revelation

Which book was written by the disciple who was previously a tax collector? (Matthew)

Which book begins with the story of John the Baptist preparing the way? (Mark)

Which book was written by a doctor? (Luke)

Which book speaks about Jesus as the "Word"? (John)

Which book tells the story of the beginning of the early church? (Acts)

In which book does Paul say he's not ashamed of the gospel? (Romans)

Where can we find the chapter on love? (1 Corinthians)

Which book talks about the thorn in Paul's flesh? (2 Corinthians)

Which book talks about the fruit of the Spirit? (Galatians)

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Which book talks about putting on the Armor of God? (Ephesians)

Which book was written to the church in the city where Paul and Silas sang praises to God from jail? (Philippians)

Which book was written to the believers in Colossae? (Colossians)

Which book mentions the second-coming of Christ in each chapter? (1 Thessalonians)

Which book was written to people who worried that Jesus' second-coming already happened and feared they were left behind? (2 Thessalonians)

Which book was written to a young man who Paul called his "son of faith"? (1 Timothy)

In which book did Paul ask for someone to visit him in the prison in Rome? (2 Timothy)

Which book was written by a Christian preaching in Crete? (Titus)

Which book was written to a Christian slave owner? (Philemon)

Which book was written to a Jewish believer population that spoke of Jesus as High Priest? (Hebrews)

Which book was possibly written by one of Jesus' family members? (James)

Which book explains how Christians should confront suffering that is a result of persecution? (1 Peter)

Which book follows 1 Peter? (2 Peter)

In which book does the author refer to his readers as "little children"? (1 John)

Which book comes after 1 John? (2 John)

Which book is the shortest in the New Testament (3 John)

What is the second to the last book in the Bible? (Jude)

Which book was written by a disciple who had a vision of God's coming Kingdom? (Revelation)