

Adventures with GOD!

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE (C.3.SPRING.9)

Biblical Reference	Psalms 119:105-112, Matthew 6:25-34
Key Verse	Psalms 119:105
Key Concept	To understand God's word I need to study and reflect on it regularly.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memorize the key words they will need to do an observation of a Bible passage 2. Describe the Bible passage they worked on in class 3. Share why studying the Bible is important to them

Life Application

As Christians, it's vital to use God's word correctly. In order to use God's word correctly, we need to know how to study and read the Bible. Children will have the opportunity to learn how to do a Bible study, using observation as a first step in the process. During the week, children will have the opportunity to continue studying the Bible on their own, and to put into practice what they learned.

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
Review		10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, key questions, illustration	15 minutes
Learning Centers	See instructions	15 minutes
Bible verse	Note cards	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.

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 Psalm 119:105-112 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?

Review: Spend time reviewing the books of the Bible by playing a game. Divide children up into groups; give children the name of a book in the Bible, and have them name the books that come before and after. Or give children the names of five books and have them put the books in order. Another way to review is to give them a Bible reference and see who can look it up the fastest. It would be good if these references had to do with God's word or God speaking to us.

Bible Exploration: Before children go to the Learning Centers, have them sit in a circle and show an illustration of a hand. Ask what they need to keep in mind when reading God's word. How do they read God's word? What questions do they ask when they read God's word? On the fingers of the hand illustration, write the key words that they should remember as they are



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going to do a Bible study. As we study the Bible, we use observation, interpretation, and application. This lesson will focus on observation. Using the guide in the following pages, help children observe Matthew 6:25-34. The purpose of this exercise is to get them thinking about how they study the Bible. It's more than just reading words on a page. It's looking at the context behind those words and the meaning for our lives today.

Learning Centers: Divide the class into three groups. Give each group a copy of the Information sheet containing steps on how to study the Bible, along with a Bible passage for each group to read. The students at each center are responsible for working together to study the Bible. For this class they will only focus on the step of observation. When the time is up, children will share what they studied with the rest of the group. Next, open with a time of dialogue, asking what questions they have about studying the Bible, what they thought of the exercise they did at the Learning Center, and why studying the Bible is important to them. Review the five key words that are important in guiding us during our study of the Bible. Give them a copy of the information sheet with Bible passages they can study during the week.

Key Verse: Before class write the Key Verse on note cards (one word per card). Hand out one or two cards to each child, asking them to work together to put the words in order. Then, children can recite the Key Verse together.

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).

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?

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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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INFORMATION SHEET

This sheet can be used at each of the Learning Centers. This guide will help you learn 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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MODEL BIBLE STUDY

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Observation:

- * What is the passage talking about?
- * Who is mentioned?
- * Who is more important than the birds?
- * Where is this story or text taking place?
- * Who is Jesus talking to?
- * How does Jesus describe the flowers of the field?
- * What does our heavenly father know about us?
- * What are we supposed to seek after?

Interpretation:

- * What do the following words or phrases mean? Anxiety, Kingdom of God, Justice, Faith?
- * Who are the gentiles? (all those who were not of the people of Israel)
- * What relationship is there between worry and the food we eat and the clothes we wear?
- * What does the author mean by: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?"
- * Why did the gentiles worry about all these things? And why did Jesus say not to worry?
- * What does it mean that "all these things" will be added onto us or given to us?

Application:

- * What does it mean to seek God's kingdom first?
- * What does it mean for me that I don't need to worry about what I eat or wear?
- * What promise does Jesus give in this passage?

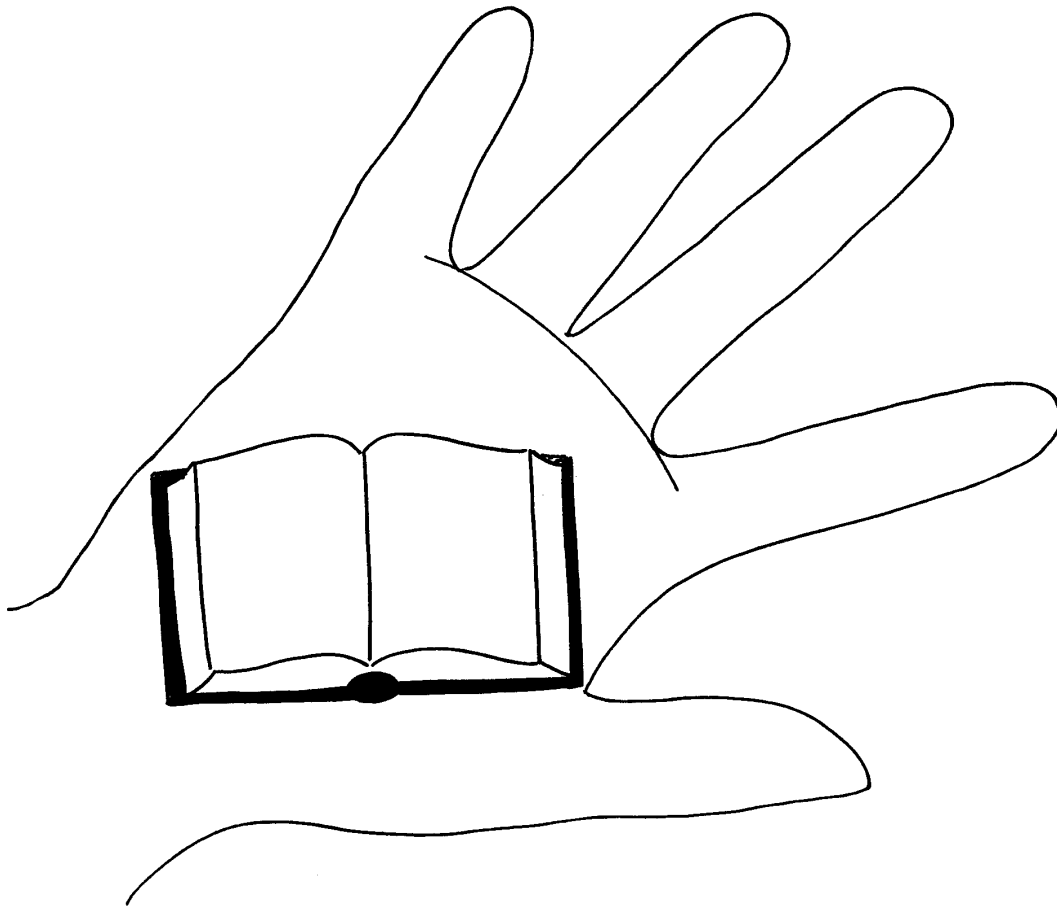


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ILLUSTRATION

Ways to study God's word

Write the following words on each finger (starting with the pinky): Listen, Read, Study, Memorize, Meditate



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DEVOTIONAL SHEET

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

Read Matthew 8:23-27

Observations:

Read Matthew 9:18-26

Observations: