

Year 4, Rotation 2

The Bible

Overall Objective

- Children will understand that the Bible is the “inspired Word of God.”
- Children will understand that reading the Bible will help them know who God is and his plan for them and the world.
- Children will recognize the Bible as a “library” or collection of smaller books that fit together to “tell the one big story.”
- Children will learn about the first Bible records.
- Children will learn about the structure of the Bible:

Biblical References

Matthew 7:12

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the law and the prophets.

Memory Verse

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

Biblical Background

The Bible is the world’s best selling book. It was also the first book to ever be printed mechanically. The Bible is the best-documented ancient text in the world with over 13,000 manuscript copies of parts of the New Testament. The Bible tells about more than 4000 years of the world’s history. The Bible has had a huge impact on countless individuals and whole nations. Many men and women have died in order to see the Bible distributed throughout the world to as many people as possible.

The Bible is made up of 66 different books, written by many different people over a period of about 2000 years. The Bible is actually a library itself, made up of 66 smaller books. The word “biblio” means “books.” The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Testament means “agreement.” The two different testaments in the Bible represent two different agreements between God and his people. For young children, it is often easy to describe the two testaments as the stories that took place before Jesus was born (Old Testament) and the stories that took place after Jesus was born (New Testament). However, there are many places in the Old Testament that tell about the coming of the Messiah (Jesus). Older children can begin to make the connections between the promises of a Savior and prophecies about him in the Old Testament and the fulfillment of that promise in the New Testament.

Even though the Bible is a library of 66 different books and hundreds of stories, they all add up to the “one big story” of God’s plan for the world from creation to eternity, for all of us to be his children. While developing some Bible skills during this rotation, we will also introduce children to the “one big story” that the Bible tells. This will help the children put the subsequent stories they hear into the proper context and perspective. Hopefully it will also mean that younger children will be less intimidated by “big” Bibles later on.

The Bible is different from any other book in the world because it is the work of many different people and God himself. The Bible says it is “God-breathed.” (2 Timothy 3:16) We use the word “inspired.” This doesn’t mean that God dictated his words to the writers, or physically took pen in hand, but that he inspired them or gave them special powers to write the truth. The Bible can be trusted. Its message has a special power to speak to people, no matter who they are, where or when they lived. That is why it is often called “God’s Living Word.”

Types of Bible literature:

The Bible is made up of several different genres of literature.

The Old Testament contains four types of books:

- Law
- History
- Poetry
- Prophets (Major and minor prophets are sometimes a further division)

In the Old Testament, the Pentateuch, the historical books and the Prophets appear more or less in chronological order.

Law: Jewish people call the first sets of five books in the Old Testament the Law, or the Torah. “Torah” means instruction in Hebrew and these first books give instruction for life through the laws, rules and directions that God gave to the Israelite people about what they should and should not do. These first five books are sometimes called the Pentateuch (5 scrolls). They were written by Moses and tell the earliest history of God’s people from creation to Moses leading the Israelite people from Egypt toward the promised land. It is called the Law because within these books, God gives his laws and commandments to the Israelite people. The Ten Commandments are in Exodus 20, the second book of the Bible.

History: These twelve books tell the history of the Hebrew nation, what people did and what happened to them. These books describe the Israelites’ entry into the Promised Land, the settlements of the judges, the kingdoms of Saul, David and Solomon, the split into two kingdoms, the exile and the resettlement of Jerusalem. They tell about the story of the Israelite people during this time. God had given them the Ten Commandments and many other laws, but the Israelites often broke them. God gave the Israelite people judges and kings to be their leaders.

Poetry: These five books are written in beautiful language and paint “word pictures.” Poetry in the Hebrew language repeats ideas or thoughts rather than sounds. These books contain many descriptions of feelings about God, prayers and praises to God, and questions of God. The main book of poetry in the Bible is the book of Psalms or songs. Psalms is a collection of many different types of songs including songs of praise, sorrow, thanksgiving and anger. Proverbs is a book full of wise sayings and advice.

Prophets: The next 17 books of the Bible are the Prophets. The first five books are called the Major Prophets (that just means that they are longer than the others) and the next twelve are the Minor Prophets. Prophets were God’s messengers. He gave special messages to them that they were to share with the people about how to worship God and to obey him. They warned the people of punishment if they did not listen. The prophets also told the people about God -- about his love for them and his plan to send them a Savior.

New Testament Books:

The New Testament contains four types of books also:

- Gospels
- History
- Letters (Letters of Paul and General Letters are sometimes a further division)
- New Testament Prophecy (Revelation)

The New Testament books are not arranged in chronological order. The gospels are first, then Acts, then the letters which are placed according to length, rather than order in which they were written.

Gospels: The first four books of the New Testament are called the gospels, which means “good news.” The good news that is revealed here is Jesus. The gospels tell us about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each gospel is written by a different person, so each book is slightly different from the others.

History: The only book of history in the New Testament is the book of Acts or Acts of the Apostles. (The word apostle is often used just like disciples, meaning Jesus’ followers. Actually apostles are people who were sent out to share the good news Jesus brought.) This book was written by Luke (who also wrote the gospel according to Luke) and describes what happened to Jesus’ followers after his ascension into heaven. It describes the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian church. It tells about the growth of Christian churches in many new places and the persecution and martyrdom of early Christians.

Letters: The next 21 books in the New Testament are letters or epistles. Each book is one letter. Some are letters to people and some are letters to churches or communities. The letters contain messages about faith in Jesus Christ. Some answer questions that the new churches had about what they should or should not do.

Letters of Paul: The first thirteen letters were written by Paul. They are in order by length (from longest to shortest) not in the order in which they were written. The titles of the letters Paul wrote tell to whom the letters were written (for example: Romans: to the church at Rome, Galatians: to the church at Galatia, I and II Timothy: to Timothy, Titus and Philemon: to Titus and Philemon. General Letters: The other eight letters were written by John, Peter, James and Jude. The title of these letters shows the author of the letters. We don't know the author of Hebrews, although some people think it was also Paul.

New Testament Prophecy: Revelation is the last book of the New Testament. It is an apocalyptic writing and highly symbolic. It teaches about the triumph of God's plan through visions that God gave to John, the writer, while he was exiled on the island of Patmos. Interpretations of Revelation vary and include believing that most of the events described have already happened, believing that it describes events in the future or end-times, or believing that the events described are symbolic of the battle between good and evil. No matter what your interpretation of Revelation, we are assured of the promise that God's purpose will triumph and that Jesus will return.

Using the Bible:

Children need basic instructions about using their Bibles. Show them the Table of Contents at the front of the book. Most Bibles will show the two main sections (New and Old Testaments) with the list of books and page numbers). The book of Psalms is about in the middle of the Bible. Explain that the large numbers on the pages of each book tell the chapter numbers. The smaller numbers are the verse numbers. When we write a scripture reference, we write it like this:

Psalm 119:3

Book - Chapter number- colon (:) Verse number

Workshop Overview

Thou Art

OVERVIEW

Children will make bookmarks to help them learn the four types of books found in the Old Testament, and the 4 types of books found in the New Testament.

MATERIAL LIST

- Bookmark forms (Workshop Coordinator)
- Cording (Workshop Coordinator)
- Rubber stamps/pads (Workshop Coordinator)
- Charms (Workshop Coordinator)
- Missing Books worksheet (Workshop Coordinator)

ROOM SET-UP

Thou Art room

Garden of Eatin'

OVERVIEW

Children will research bible verses to help complete a recipe. They will then make the completed recipe.

MATERIAL LIST

- Unfinished Recipe worksheets (Workshop Coordinator)
- Bibles (Workshop Coordinator)
- Recipe ingredients and cooking utensils (Workshop Coordinator)
- Fun Facts review sheet (workshop Coordinator)

ROOM SET-UP

Kitchen

Pray-per-View

OVERVIEW

Children will watch a video that touches on the authors, history and stories of the bible.

MATERIAL LIST

- Video, *Amazing Book* (Workshop Coordinator)
- Popcorn (Workshop Coordinator)

- Bible Search game (Workshop Coordinator)

ROOM SET-UP

Pray-per-View room

The Tabernacle

OVERVIEW

Children will learn about the different books of the bible, facts about the OT and the NT, and how to use the books, chapters, and verses.

MATERIAL LIST

- Bibles (Workshop Coordinator)
- Bible Jingo (Workshop Coordinator)
- Hidden Treasures worksheet (Workshop Coordinator)

ROOM SET-UP

The Tabernacle

Fun & Godly Stuff

OVERVIEW

Children will play games to help them learn the names of the books of the Bible, and their placement within the Old or New Testament.

MATERIAL LIST

- Game pieces (Workshop Coordinator)
- Bibles (Workshop Coordinator)

ROOM SET-UP

Available classroom

THOU ART

Objective:

- The children will learn the four types of books found in the Old Testament;
- The children will learn the four types of books found in the New Testament;
- The children will learn some of the symbolism used in conjunction with the Bible;
- The children will learn about the Holy Trinity.

Materials:

- Cardstock bookmark forms
- Stickers
- Colored ribbon
- Beads
- Missing Books worksheet

Lesson:

(1st and 2nd graders) Welcome the children and ask them if they've ever had the chance to page through the Bible and look at it closely. Point out some of the different names of the different "chapters" and explain that each "chapter" is actually considered a book within the Bible. Explain to them that the Bible is a book made up of books, 66 to be exact, all written by different authors. Refer to the Biblical background of this rotation for discussion with the children.

- Have they ever read a book that was made up of other books put together?
- Have they ever read a book with more than one author?

(3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) Welcome the children and ask them to pull out their Bibles. Refer to the Biblical background of this rotation for discussion with the children. Remind them that the Bible is a book made up of books, 66 to be exact, all written by different authors.

- Have they ever read a book that was made up of other books put together?
- Have they ever read a book with more than one author?

(All) Review terminology of the Bible. Explain that unlike most books, each "chapter" in the Bible is called a *book*, and then within each *book* are *chapters* and *verses*. Ask the children to find the memory verse within the Bible (Psalm 119:105) to reiterate the book, chapter, verse thinking.

Ask the children how long they think it took to write the Bible. Explain that the Bible was written by many different people over a period of about 2000 years. It

is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Testament means “agreement.”

- Why do they think the Bible was split into two sections?
- Why is one section called “old” and the other “new”? Does “new” mean things that just happened?

The two different testaments in the Bible represent two different agreements between God and his people. For children, it is often easy to describe the two testaments as the stories that took place before Jesus was born (Old Testament) and the stories that took place after Jesus was born (New Testament). Even though the Bible is made up of hundreds of stories, they all add up to the “one big story” of God’s plan for the world from creation to eternity, for all of us to be his children.

To make things a little easier to understand, the books of the Bible have been grouped by the types of things that each contains.

The Old Testament contains four types of books:

- Law
- History
- Poetry
- Prophets

Law: The first five books are called the Law because within these books, God gives his laws and commandments to the Israelite people. The Ten Commandments are in Exodus, the second book of the Bible. Have the children look at their Bibles and name the first 5 books. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

History: These twelve books tell the history of the Hebrew nation, what people did and what happened to them. Using their Bibles, have the children identify the 12 History books. (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther)

Poetry: These five books are written in beautiful language and paint “word pictures.” The main book of poetry in the Bible is the book of Psalms or songs. Have the children identify the other 4 books of Poetry. (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)

Prophets: The next 17 books of the Bible are the Prophets. Prophets were God’s messengers. He gave special messages to them that they were to share with the people about how to worship God and to obey him. Identify the Prophets. (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

New Testament Books:

The New Testament contains four types of books also:

- Gospels
- History
- Letters
- New Testament Prophecy

Gospels: The first four books of the New Testament are called the gospels, which means “good news.” Identify the Gospels. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

History: The only book of history in the New Testament is the book of Acts or Acts of the Apostles.

Letters: The next 21 books in the New Testament are letters, and each book is one letter. Some are letters to people and some are letters to churches or communities. Look up the 21 books of Letters in the Bible. (Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, Jude)

New Testament Prophecy: Revelation is the last book of the New Testament. It is highly symbolic. It teaches about the triumph of God’s plan.

We will now make bookmarks that use the symbols for these different types of groups in the Old and New Testament.

(Hold up cardstock bookmark shape). This will be our bookmark that we can use in our Bibles when we are finished. We will be adding stamped images to this bookmark that represent Law, History, Gospels, etc. In addition, we will add to the top of the bookmark a charm.

To begin with, you will need to write “Old Testament” on one side of the bookmark, and “New Testament” on the other. On the Old Testament side, we will need to stamp four images that represent the 4 types of books:

- Law will be the Ten-Commandment stamp
- History will be a scroll stamp
- Poetry will be a musical note stamp
- Prophets will be a angel stamp.

On the New Testament side we will need to add four stamps that represent those 4 types of books:

- Gospels will be a cross stamp
- History will be an open book stamp
- Letters will be pencil stamp

- New Testament Prophecy will be a heart stamp.

When complete with the stamps, have the children thread a string through top of the bookmark form, through the punched hole. Thread one charm on the string and tie.

Encourage the children to keep the bookmark with their Bibles, to help them remember the many books it contains.

If time remains, allow children to complete the "Missing Books" worksheet using their Bibles for assistance.

Prayer:

"Dear God, Thank you for this day and for all the people who are here today. Thank you for giving us the Bible, your special Word, and for all the ways you use the Bible to tell us more about you. AMEN"

GARDEN OF EATIN'

Objective:

- Children will gain familiarity with the use of the Bible by looking up verses;
- Children will work to complete a puzzle (the recipe) in order to be able to produce the brownies;
- Children will learn some interesting facts about the Bible.

Materials:

- Bible Brownies Recipe sheet
- Bibles
- Pencils
- Bible Brownies recipe ingredients (flour, sugar, cocoa, baking powder, salt, oil, eggs, vanilla)
- Baking materials (mixing bowl, wooden spoon, measuring cups and spoons, baking dish)
- Fun Facts review sheet

Lesson:

Ask the children if they've ever helped their Mom or Dad make something in the kitchen. Have they ever seen their parent use a recipe for making food?

- What is a recipe? (it is a guide to help you make a special dish)
- What does a recipe tell you (it tells you what ingredients are needed, how to put those ingredients together, how to bake it, how to serve it, etc.)
- How is it used? (you get all the ingredients listed together, then you mix them in the order they tell you, then you cook it like they tell you, etc.)
- What happens if you don't follow the directions? (could taste funny, could not bake right, etc.)

Tell them that you were told to make Bible Brownies with them today, but you don't understand the recipe you were given. Pass out the recipe sheets, and ask the children if they understand what ingredients you are supposed to use. See if they can recognize the wording on each ingredient as being a Bible book, chapter and verse. Ask them what they think that means – see if they can guess that they are supposed to look up that Bible book, chapter and verse to find out the “real” ingredient that they are supposed to use. Work with the children to decipher the entire recipe.

Once the recipe is decoded, work with the children to get out the proper ingredients in the kitchen. This recipe does involve measuring, so perhaps divide up the children into teams to work on the measuring. Once brownies are mixed

and in the oven, see if the children can guess the answers to the questions on the Bible Fun Facts review sheet.

Prayer:

“Dear God, thank you for this food. Bless the hands that prepared it and make us ever mindful of the needs of others. Amen.”

PRAY-PER-VIEW

Objective:

- The children will learn the structure of the Bible;
- The children will learn the books of the Bible;
- The children will learn that the Bible is made up of many different stories.

Materials:

- Video, *The Amazing Book*
- Popcorn
- Bible Search game
- Bibles

Lesson:

You are taken on a tour of the Bible by a mouse called Doc Dickory, his friend Revver, and a “book mole” called Dewey Decimole. Lots of singing with short animated clips of several Bible stories during some of the songs. They also sing a song naming the books of the Bible. Approx. 26 minutes.

After the movie ends, ask the children the following questions to see if they remember:

- Do they remember a name of one of the books in the song about the books of the Old Testament?
- Do they remember a name of one of the books in the song about the books of the New Testament?
- Do they remember one of the stories that are in the Bible? What story was it?

Bible Search!

Supplies:

- Index cards labeled with the names of books of the Bible (one per card)

To Play:

- Divide the children into two teams.
- Make sure each child has a Bible.
- Give several cards to each team.

- On the starting signal, have each team find the first chapter of the book indicated on each card and place the card as a marker in the Bible.
- The team that correctly finds all the books first wins.

Prayer:

“Dear God, As we learn more about you and your son Jesus, help us to use those lessons to help others. Amen.”

THE TABERNACLE

Objective:

- The children will learn about the different books of the Bible;
- The children will learn facts about each book in the Bible;
- The children will learn how to use the books, chapters, and verses.

Materials:

- Bibles
- Bible Jingo
- Hidden Treasure’s worksheet

Lesson:

Have the children open their Bibles to the first page.

(3rd grade and up) The children should see their names written there. Their church gave them this Bible because we know how important the Bible is in helping all of us grow in our faith.

(1st and 2nd) When you enter third grade our church gives you a Bible just like this one.

(all) Today we are going to learn about the stories in the Bible.

Review/Introduce these ideas:

- The Bible is like a big library filled with 66 different books.
- There are many kinds of books in the Bible, just like there are many different kinds of books in a library.
- Even though the Bible contains 66 different books, it really tells “One Big Story” of God’s plan for the world.
- The Bible is divided into two main parts - the Old Testament and the New Testament. (testament means agreement). The Old Testament tells stories about Bible people from very early time -- before Jesus was born. The New Testament tells stories about after Jesus was born.
- Turn to the Contents page and have the children note the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Turn the page and have families locate Genesis 1:1. Remind the children that the large numbers are chapter numbers and the smaller numbers are verse

numbers with a colon in between the chapters and the verse. We say it “Genesis one one.”

Genesis

The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Genesis means “beginnings” and this book tells about the very beginning of the world.

Genesis tells about how God created the world and all that is in the world, including animals, plants and people. It tells some of the most ancient stories such as Adam and Eve. Genesis also tells the story of Noah and the ark.

Exodus

The word Exodus means “going out” or exit – the people exited Egypt. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai in this book.

Leviticus

In this book, God continues to give Moses instructions about special holidays, holy living and worship.

Numbers

The Hebrew people were afraid to enter the Promised Land. And so, because they didn’t trust God, they ended up wandering in the wilderness for 40 years.

Deuteronomy

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, the Hebrews are about to enter the Promised Land. Moses is very old and is about to die. He reminds the people of the amazing and wonderful things God has done for them.

Joshua

We’re now through the first five books of the Old Testament. What are the first five books of the Old Testament called? (the Law – remember Moses and the Ten Commandments)

The next category of literature in the Old Testament is History. The first book of history in the Old Testament is Joshua. Let’s find the book of Joshua now.

In the book of Joshua, we see the Hebrew people entering the Promised Land or the land of Israel as we know it today. Moses has died and Joshua is their new leader.

Judges

After Moses and Joshua died, the leaders of the people were called judges. This book is full of stories of the Israelites turning away from God and worshiping idols and then repenting and turning back toward God.

Ruth

The book of Ruth is a wonderful love story..

I and II Samuel

The people of Israel were not satisfied with their Judges as leaders. They wanted a king so they could be like everyone else. These two books tell about Israel's first King, Saul. We also read about the famous fight between David and Goliath here.

I and II Kings

After King David died, his son Solomon became King of Israel. Solomon built the fantastic Temple in Jerusalem. Solomon is also known for being very wise.

I Chronicles

The book of Chronicles goes back and tells about what happened during the time of the Judges and the beginning of the kingdom.

II Chronicles

The book of II Chronicles continues the stories of the kings.

Ezra

In this book, we see that God keeps his promise to bring his people back. Some of the people return to Judah. They rebuild the Temple.

Nehemiah

After Ezra returned to Jerusalem, a man named Nehemiah also returned. He helped to rebuild the city walls.

Esther

The book of Esther shows how God works through difficult circumstances to take care of his people. God often uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things

Job

Job is the first book of a new category of Old Testament literature – Poetry. In this book we read about terrible things that happened to a man named Job. This book helps us understand that bad things do sometimes happen to good people.

Psalms

Psalms is about in the middle of your Bible. David wrote many of the psalms. Psalms are poems that were often sung to worship, praise or call out to God.

Proverbs

The book of Proverbs is a book of short sayings that help us learn to make wise choices and live a good life.

Ecclesiastes

The main idea in this book is that it is impossible to have a happy life without God.

Song of Songs (Song of Solomon)

This book describes the love that God has for his people. It compares it to the love a husband and wife have for each other.

Isaiah

Isaiah is the first of the next category of literature in the Old Testament – the Prophets. Prophets were God’s messengers.

Jeremiah

Jeremiah was a prophet who lived during the time of the divided kingdom. Jeremiah tried to warn the people not to turn away from God, but they didn’t listen.

Lamentations

This book of the Bible expresses the confusion and suffering felt after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

Ezekiel

Ezekiel wrote this book while in captivity in Babylon. He has many strange visions and dreams.

Daniel

Daniel was a prophet living in Persia during the exile. This book tells about some of Daniel’s adventures.

Hosea

The prophet Hosea warns the people to turn away from their sin and back toward God.

Joel

The prophet Joel encouraged people to turn away from their sin and back toward God, too.

Amos

Amos was a shepherd prophet. He was especially concerned with how poor people were treated by the rich. God wants all people to be treated fairly.

Obadiah

The prophet Obadiah tells us that God is faithful. God keeps his promises.

Jonah

Jonah was a reluctant prophet who tried to run away from God's call. The story of Jonah being swallowed by the giant fish is one of the best-known stories in the Bible.

Micah

Like the prophet Amos, Micah was concerned about the poor. Micah teaches us that when we truly love God, our love will show in the way we treat others.

Nahum

Nahum is a prophet who tells about the destruction of Ninevah.

Habakkuk

The prophet Habakkuk was terribly unhappy at the sins of the people of Israel and their enemies. But he understood that God is in control and eventually those who do evil things will be punished. Even through hard times we should love and trust God.

Zephaniah

The prophet Zephaniah warns the people of Judah that they must not be like other nations. They must worship God alone

Haggai

The prophet Haggai lived during the time the Temple was being rebuilt. He urged the people to continue their work to rebuild it and not give up.

Zechariah

The prophet Zechariah also urges the people to finish rebuilding the Temple. Zechariah also tells that someday God will take away the people's sins.

Malachi

After the Israelites returned to Israel from exile in Babylon, many of them no longer followed God. The prophet Malachi reminds us that we should always put God first in our lives. God deserves our very best.

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament.

Between the Testaments...

The last books of the Old Testament tell about the last 100 years of Old Testament history.

After 400 years of silence from the prophets, God is about to speak in a mighty way – by becoming human, like us, and coming to earth as a small baby born in Bethlehem.

The New Testament opens with this event...

The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels. Gospel means “good news.” The Gospels tell the good news that Jesus came to be our Savior and to restore our relationship to God. Jesus is truly the Messiah, the fulfillment of God’s promises from the Old Testament.

The four Gospels tell about Jesus. There are many similarities in the Gospels, but also some differences. In the Gospel of Matthew, we see Christ presented as Messiah. In Mark we see Jesus as servant. In Luke we see Jesus as man, though also God. In John we see Jesus as God, though also man. By reading all four of the Gospel accounts we get a more complete picture of who Jesus is. The next book, Acts, was written by Luke (who also wrote the gospel according to Luke) and describes what happened to Jesus’ followers after his ascension into heaven. It describes the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian church.

The next 21 books in the New Testament are *letters* or epistles. Each book is one letter. Some are letters to people and some are letters to churches or communities. The letters contain messages about faith in Jesus Christ. Some answer questions that the new churches had about what they should or should not do.

Revelation is the last book of the New Testament. It is a writing that is considered a *prophecy*, and is highly symbolic. It teaches about the triumph of God’s plan through visions that God gave to John, the writer, while he was exiled on the island of Patmos.

Bible Jingo (Bingo)

Prayer:

“Dear God, thank you for the stories in the Bible. May they help us to understand Jesus and teach us to help others. Amen.”

FUN & GODLY STUFF

Objective:

- The children will play games to help them learn the names of the books of the Bible;
- The children will play games to help them understand the placement of the books in the Bible.

Materials:

- Bibles
- Find the Match! game pieces
- Bible Book Concentration!
- Bible Twister game pieces

Lesson:

Find the Match! game

Supplies:

- index cards, labeled with the name of each book of the Bible, one per card
- 8 other index cards labeled: The Law, Old Testament History, Prophecy, Poetry, Gospels, New Testament History, Letters, New Testament Prophecy.

Before Playing:

- Prepare the index cards and category cards.
- Shuffle the 66 Bible book cards.
- Divide the shuffled cards into two sets, one for each team (each set should be 33 cards or 1/2 of the total Bible Books)
- Mark one set of cards with a small sticker, or mark to indicate the team to which they belong.
- Place the eight categories of Bible Books cards at the opposite end of the room, evenly spaced on the wall or floor.

Lesson: Today we are going to play some games to help us learn about the books of the Bible.

Who can remember how many books there are in the Bible? (66)

The Bible is divided into two sections – who can remember the name of one section? Who can remember the name of the other section? (Old Testament, New Testament)

The Old Testament is divided into 4 types of books. Who can name one of the types of books? (Eventually name all 4 – Law, History, Poetry, Prophets).

The New Testament is divided into 4 types of books too. Who can name one of the types of books? (Eventually name all 4 – Gospel, History, Letters, Prophecy)

Now we are going to play a game called Find the Match.

To Play:

- Divide children into two teams. (sticker or marked team and un-stickered team)
- Line the children up.
- At the starting signal, have the first players on each team pick a card from the box, confer with their team about where it belongs and run and place their Bible book card in the appropriate category. Teams may use their Bibles for help.
- When they return to their team, the next player goes, and so forth until all cards have been categorized.
- First team to finish with all cards correctly categorized wins! (Be sure to check and make sure all the cards are in the correct category!)

Bible Book Concentration!

Supplies:

- Index cards (labeled with one per book of Bible - make matching sets
- with about 15 books each for a total of 30 cards)
- Make several sets, so several pairs of children can play at once.

To Play:

- Shuffle cards well.
- Lay out cards in a “concentration” style format, face down on table.
- Divide children into pairs.
- First child turns over two cards. If they match he/she keeps the pair and goes again.
- If the cards don't match, turn them face down again, and next child takes a turn.
- Continue until all matches are found.

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The Bible

- Player with most matches wins.

Bible Twister

Prayer:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day, and for having the chance to learn about the Bible. Help us to use the teachings in the Bible in our daily lives, so that we can become better people. Amen.”