



UNIT 7 | SESSION 3

THE BIBLE HELPS US LIVE FOR GOD

2 TIMOTHY 3

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 119:105

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Paul wrote to teach Timothy how to live for God. The Bible tells us about God's plan for people to have forgiveness through His Son, Jesus. Jesus obeyed God's Word perfectly. We can follow Jesus' example to read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live for God's glory.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul points out that Scripture is enough for us. It is our source for godliness and our final authority in matters pertaining to doctrine. The confessions of every Protestant denomination affirm the sufficiency of Scripture.

Why does this matter for kids? We need to teach our kids that even though the Bible may not mention everything in life, it mentions everything we need to know about God, His plan to save us, and how we can live a holy life to please Him.

It is important in a world that has become increasingly hostile to biblical truth that we teach our kids the value of reading it and applying it to our lives daily.

What is important for us to remember and for kids to know about the Bible?

1. The Bible is how God speaks to us. The words of the Bible are not like any other document on earth. They are the way God chose to tell us what He is like.
2. The Bible is about God and for us. One common misunderstanding about the Bible is that the Bible is about us. As we are reminded each week in our Christ connection, the Bible is about Jesus, but it is for us. It is how we can understand, apply, and teach others what God is like.

3. The Bible is how we can know how to love God and live for God. God speaks to us through His Word, shows us what He is like, and tells us how life works best and how we can live for Him in the world He has made for us.

Take a moment to thank God for the Bible as you prepare to show your kids the beauty of Christ in the pages of Scripture. Paul told Timothy that all of the Bible is important for us to grow and to know. This is just as true for kids. The question is not what parts of the Bible we should teach kids but how we should teach all of the Bible to kids.

TERMS TO KNOW

Sufficiency of Scripture: The Bible is all we need to equip us for a life of faith and service.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “What’s something that you’ve learned to do that took a lot of practice or required a teacher to show you how to do it? Maybe you’ve learned how to sing, fish, or dance. To learn a new skill, we often need someone to teach us and help us correct mistakes. Today, we will talk about the ways God’s Word helps correct our mistakes so we can live for God.”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “The Guide Book” on the activity page.

SAY “Getting lost in a maze is common. When we get lost it, helps to find someone who can give us directions. God gave us the Bible to guide us through the challenges we face every day. Today, we will learn more about the ways the Bible helps us love, obey, and live for God.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: TRY NOT TO LAUGH



Guide kids to sit in a circle. Pick one volunteer to stand in the middle of the circle. Set a timer for 30 seconds. When you say go, the volunteer has 30 seconds to try to make someone in the circle laugh.

If a kid in the circle laughs, she becomes the next person to act silly in the middle. If no one laughs and the 30 seconds are up, pick a random volunteer to be in the middle. Continue until everyone has a turn to be in the middle trying to make others laugh.

SAY “It takes a lot of self control not to laugh when people are being so silly! In today’s Bible story, we’ll learn how Scripture teaches us to act in a way that pleases God. That takes self-control, too!”

OPTION 2: WISE VS. FOOLISH

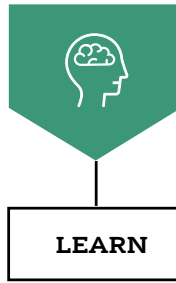
Write the word wise on a piece of paper. Write foolish on another piece. Tape the papers onto opposite walls.

Direct the kids to stand in the middle of the room. Read a characteristic from the following list of wise or foolish traits. Lead kids to guess if the characteristic is wise or foolish and stand on the corresponding wall.

- Wise: loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, faithful, self-controlled
- Foolish: greedy, proud, unloving, disobedient, selfish, against God, reckless

SAY “The Bible teaches us how to be wise and avoid being foolish. In today’s story, we’ll learn more about why the Bible is so important for teaching us truth. Do you think we can be wise on our own? Why?”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 2 Timothy 3. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Bible Helps Us Live for God.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

THE BIBLE HELPS US LIVE FOR GOD

“ A man named **Paul wrote a letter to his friend Timothy. Paul was a follower of Jesus. He was also a missionary**; he went wherever God sent him and told people the good news about Jesus. **Timothy had traveled with Paul and** helped him. **Now Timothy was a leader at a church.**

Two letters from Paul to Timothy are part of the Bible. In the second letter, Paul taught Timothy about living for Jesus and how to help others live for Jesus too.

This is what **Paul wrote: ‘Hard times are coming. Some people will not live for God. They will love themselves and money most of all.** They will be proud, unloving, and unholy. They will disobey their parents and live without self-control. **Instead of loving God, they will do whatever feels good to them.** Stay away from these people. They will never come to know the truth about God.’

Paul reminded Timothy of two men, Jannes (JAN eez) and Jambres (JAM breez), who had challenged Moses in Egypt. They were foolish not to believe the truth.

Paul wrote, **‘You know me well, and you even suffered like I did. Everyone who wants to live for Jesus will face hard times, too.** Remember what you have learned and believed. **From the time you were a child, you learned from Scripture. The Scriptures** are able to **give you the wisdom you need to be saved** through faith in Jesus.’

Paul knew that the Bible helps people live for God. He said, ‘All Scripture is inspired by God. It is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness. With the Bible, everyone who follows God can be ready and have everything they need to do every good work.’

Christ Connection: Paul wrote to teach Timothy how to live for God. The Bible tells us about God’s plan for people to have forgiveness through His Son, Jesus. Jesus obeyed God’s Word perfectly. We can follow Jesus’ example to read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live for God’s glory. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Thumbs up or down: When Paul describes foolish and wise people, lead kids to give a thumbs up for something wise and a thumbs down for something foolish.

Pick volunteers: For each thing Paul says, guide a volunteer to repeat Paul’s words to the group.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Paul told people about Jesus and taught his friend Timothy to tell people about Jesus, too. He warned Timothy that some people would not love God. They acted in foolish ways that did not honor God. Apart from God, we all are foolish and dishonor God. That’s why we need God’s Word.

Paul explained that the Bible comes from God. It tells us what we need to do to be saved and how to act in a way that pleases God. Because the Bible comes from God, it teaches us true wisdom. Only in the Bible can we learn how to have a saving relationship with God through Jesus.

Because Scripture comes from God, we can trust the Bible to lead us in how to live. Those who don’t listen to the Bible act foolishly. They believe what they want and do not know the truth. Like our big picture question reminds us, though, we can know what is true by reading God’s Word. The Bible tells us that God is holy, that we are not, and that we need to trust in Jesus for forgiveness and life with God forever.

Jesus knows God’s Word perfectly, died on the cross in our place, and rose from the dead to take away our sin. When we have faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in us so we can understand God’s Word and follow Jesus’ example to honor God and live wisely. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Paul wrote to teach Timothy how to live for God. The Bible tells us about God’s plan for people to have forgiveness through His Son, Jesus. Jesus obeyed God’s Word perfectly. We can follow Jesus’ example to read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live for God’s glory. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 7, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Do we have to follow all the rules in the Old Testament?
2. Why do you think God wants His followers to live a certain way?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Did you know that there are around 430 million people in the world with serious hearing loss? Can you imagine what it would be like not to be able to hear? ”

Use hearing protection to simulate hearing loss. If you use in-ear hearing protection, provide one pair per kid or thoroughly sanitize them between uses.

SAY “ God communicates with us through the Bible—His Word. Many people who are deaf use sign language to communicate. Have you ever thought about the fact that people who are deaf need someone to tell them about Jesus, too? Using sign language is a helpful skill for sharing the gospel with people who cannot hear. Women like Yvette Arons have answered God’s call to go to the