

Foundation

Unit 1: Studying the Bible | Lesson 1

Why Study the Bible?

Essential Question

- What is the Bible, and why should Christians spend time studying the Bible?

Learning Outcome

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

- Explain what the Bible is and why Christians should spend time studying it.

Assessment

- Summary picture and sentences

What You'll Need

Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Bible
- Pencil

Procedures

- Explain that we will be looking at how to study the Bible.
- Ask students the *Essential Question*, "What is the Bible, and why should Christians spend time studying it?"
- Introduce the first part of the question, "What is the Bible?"
- Explain basic information about the Bible.
 - The Bible is made up of 66 individual books.
 - The 66 books fall into various genres such as history, law, poetry, prophecy, and biography.
 - The Bible was written by about 40 different human authors, inspired by God.
 - The Bible was written over a span of 1,500 years.
 - The Bible is divided into two Testaments, the Old and the New. Testament means covenant.
 - All 66 books, 40 authors, 1,500 years and two Testaments work together to tell one big story, God's story.
- Explain that the purpose of the Bible is to reveal God's plan for us and the world.

- Have the students open their *Activity Sheets* and turn to the table of contents for the books of the Bible.
 - Have them read through the list and choose two or three books they already know something about.
 - Using the lines on the next page, write down the name of the books they chose and one fact they already know about that book of the Bible.
 - When they are finished, have students return to the table of contents and choose one or two books they have never heard of or are less familiar with.
 - Using the lines on the next page, write down the name of the books they chose and write down one question you have about each book.
- When the students have finished this activity, have students look at the *Digging In* section of their *Activity Sheets*.
 - Have the students read the verses in that activity and answer the questions below, preparing to discuss what they've learned.
 - After a few minutes, regroup to discuss what they discovered from the *Digging In* activity.
 - Explain what it means that the Bible is breathed out by God. It means that the Bible contains God's words. This is why Christians call the Bible God's Word or the Word of God.
- Recap the question, "What is the Bible?" It is breathed out by God, meaning that it is God's Word.
- Ask the students why Christians should spend time studying the Bible.
- Explain that we have reasons for why we choose what we do with our body, such as eating healthy or getting enough sleep each night. We need to know why we nourish our body or give our bodies enough rest. It is the same with reading the Bible; we need to know why Christians should study the Bible.
- Have the students turn to the section of their *Activity Sheets* labeled *Figuring Out the Why*.
 - Have students answer the questions before we come back together to discover what they found.
 - Regroup and discuss what they discovered in the activity.
- Explain how the activity shows us that in order to get to know someone we must spend time with that person. Our relationship with God works in the same way. If we want to understand the truth about God we need to study the Bible, because it teaches us about God.
- Summarize the answer to the *Essential Question*. We learn that the Bible is God's Word and Christians should study the Bible because it teaches us the truth about God.
- Have the students complete the *Know It and Show It* section of their *Activity Sheets* to prove that they are able to answer the *Essential Question*.
- Thank the students for joining you on the adventure of studying the Bible!

Student Activity Sheets

Foundation Worldview
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Essential Question
• What is the Bible and why should Christians spend time studying it?

Books of the Bible Table of Contents

Old Testament		
Genesis	2 Chronicles	Daniel
Exodus	Ezra	Hosea
Leviticus	Nehemiah	Joel
Numbers	Esther	Amos
Deuteronomy	Job	Obadiah
Joshua	Psalms	Jonah
Judges	Proverbs	Micah
Ruth	Ecclesiastes	Nahum
1 Samuel	Song of Songs	Habakkuk
2 Samuel	Isaiah	Zephaniah
1 Kings	Jeremiah	Haggai
2 Kings	Lamentations	Zechariah
1 Chronicles	Ezekiel	Malachi
New Testament		
Matthew	Ephesians	Hebrews
Mark	Philippians	James
Luke	Colossians	1 Peter
John	1 Thessalonians	2 Peter
Acts	2 Thessalonians	1 John
Romans	1 Timothy	2 John
1 Corinthians	2 Timothy	3 John
2 Corinthians	Titus	Jude
Galatians	Philemon	Revelation

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Truths I Already Know About the Bible

Book 1 _____
Truth _____

Book 2 _____
Truth _____

Book 3 _____
Truth _____

Questions I Have About Books of the Bible

Book 1 _____
Question _____

Book 2 _____
Question _____

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Digging In

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17
According to these verses, what is all Scripture (the Bible)?

According to these verses, how should Christians use Scripture?

In one sentence, explain what the Bible is.

Figuring Out the Why

Write a list of some family members and friends whom you know well.

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Choose one person from your list and explain how you got to know that person.
Person: _____

How you got to know this person:

There are many different ways of getting to know someone. Whether you live with this person, share a bedroom, live down the street, go to church together, go to school together, or play on the same sports team, in order to get to know someone, you need to spend time with them.

Just as we must spend time with people to get to know them, we must spend time with God if we are to truly know Him. We already learned that the Bible is God's Word. It teaches the truth about God. So, if we want to know God, we must spend time reading His Word.

In one sentence, summarize why it is important for Christians to spend time reading God's Word.

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Know It and Show It

Draw a picture that represents the answer to our big question, "What is the Bible and why should Christians spend time studying it?"

In one or two sentences, answer the question "What is the Bible and why should Christians spend time studying it?"

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