Preschool–Grade 6

# The Books of the Bible

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

**Main point:** The Bible is God's Word: 66 books, all given by God, all pointing to Jesus. When we know our way around it, we can read it, love it and live by it.
**Bible passage:** 2 Timothy 3:14–17, Luke 24:27, 44 and 2 Kings 22:1–13; 23:1–3. Read them before class.
**Memory verse:** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" *2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)*
**You need:** a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** write the memory verse on the board. Next to it, write the two parts and the groups: Old Testament (39): Law 5, History 12, Poetry and Wisdom 5, Major Prophets 5, Minor Prophets 12. New Testament (27): Gospels 4, History 1, Paul's Letters 13, General Letters 8, Prophecy 1.

## 1. Opening game: Book or Not? (5–10 minutes)

Call out a name. If it is the name of a book of the Bible, kids stand up. If it is not, they sit down. Use: Jonah *(book)*, Moses *(not a book)*, Ruth *(book)*, Noah *(not)*, Esther *(book)*, Abraham *(not)*, Philemon *(book)*, Goliath *(not)*, Jude *(book)*, Obadiah *(book)*, Mary *(not)*, Habakkuk *(book)*. Say: "Some people are in the Bible but don't have a book named after them. Today we'll learn our way around all 66 books."

## 2. Bible lesson: God's Book (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

**How to find a verse.** Write *2 Timothy 3:16* on the board. Explain: the book is 2 Timothy, the big number is the chapter (3), and the small number is the verse (16). Show the list of books at the front of a Bible.

**God gave it. Look up 2 Timothy 3:16. Inspiration of God** means God gave the words. **Look up 2 Peter 1:21.** Holy men of God "spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." Many writers over many years, like Moses (Deuteronomy 31:9) and Paul (Romans 1:1), but one Author: God.

**Two parts, many groups.** Point to the board. The Old Testament (39 books) tells of creation, God's people Israel and the prophets, before Jesus was born. The New Testament (27 books) tells of Jesus and His church. The groups on the board are a study help people use; the Bible doesn't name them. "Major" prophets are longer books and "minor" prophets are shorter books, not less important.


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**It points to Jesus. Look up Luke 24:27.** After Jesus rose again, beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He **expounded**, or explained, "in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." **Look up John 20:31.** The Gospels were written "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ."

**A king who found God's book.** Josiah became king of Judah when he was only eight years old, and he did what was right in the sight of the LORD (2 Kings 22:1–2). When he had been king for eighteen years, workers were repairing the house of the LORD. Hilkiah the high priest said, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD" (22:8). Shaphan the scribe read it to the king. When Josiah heard the words, he **rent**, or tore, his clothes, because the people had not obeyed God's book (22:11–13). God saw that Josiah's heart was tender and humble (22:19). **Look up 2 Kings 23:2–3.** Josiah read the whole book to all the people, "both small and great," and promised to keep God's commandments with all his heart, and all the people stood to that promise.

**Timothy. Look up 2 Timothy 3:15.** Timothy knew the holy scriptures "from a child." They can make us "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

## 3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

**Thinking questions** (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Why does it matter that "all scripture" comes from God (2 Timothy 3:16), not just some of it?
2. Jesus showed His followers Himself in all the scriptures (Luke 24:27). Where do you know Jesus in the New Testament? What do you think the Old Testament teaches about Him?
3. Josiah was sad when he heard God's book, then he obeyed it (2 Kings 22:11; 23:3). What should we do when the Bible shows us something wrong in our lives?
4. What would help you read the Bible more this week?

**Recall questions**

1. How many books are in each Testament? *(39 Old, 27 New)*
2. What did Hilkiah find in the house of the LORD? *(The book of the law, 2 Kings 22:8)*
3. What are the four Gospels? *(Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)*


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## 4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **scripture** means God's written Word, **inspiration of God** means God gave the words, **profitable** means helpful, **doctrine** means teaching what is true, **reproof** means showing us what is wrong, **correction** means making it right, and **instruction in righteousness** means training in how to live right. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

## 5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The scriptures make us 'wise unto salvation' (2 Timothy 3:15). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? Turn to Acts 2:38 in the New Testament history book: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

*Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*

**This week:** read one chapter of a Gospel every day (Mark is a good start), and learn the books of the Law and the Gospels in order.



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## 6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point. Before each one, ask which Testament and which group the book is in.

1. Genesis 1:1: What did God create in the beginning? *(The heaven and the earth)*
2. Psalm 119:105: What is God's word to my feet? *(A lamp)*
3. Psalm 119:11: Where did the writer hide God's word? *(In his heart)*
4. Isaiah 40:8: How long will the word of our God stand? *(For ever)*
5. Matthew 4:4: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by what? *(By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God)*
6. John 20:31: Why were these things written? *(That ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God)*
7. Acts 17:11: How often did the people of Berea search the scriptures? *(Daily)*
8. 2 Timothy 3:15: How long had Timothy known the holy scriptures? *(From a child)*
   Or use the books of the Bible word search, crossword, maze or worksheet (vbshq.com/bible-stories/books-of-the-bible).

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Your Word. Thank You that all scripture comes from You and points us to Jesus. Give us a tender heart like Josiah's, so we obey what we read. Help us hide Your Word in our hearts. In Jesus' name, amen."

**About the groups:** the group names (Law, History, Poetry and Wisdom, Prophets, Gospels, Letters, Prophecy) are a common study help, not Bible text. The book names and their order are those of a King James Bible.


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