Preschool–Grade 6

The Books of the Bible

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: The Bible is God's Word. It has 66 books, and every one of them comes from God.
Bible passage: 2 Timothy 3:14–17 and Psalm 119:105. 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, a few different kinds of books from home (a songbook, a storybook, a history book, a letter or card), 5 paper strips, 9 index cards, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 5 paper strips (see part 4). Write one book name on each index card: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Put bookmarks in your Bible at 2 Timothy 3 and Psalm 119.

1. Opening game: A Library in One Book (5 minutes)

Hold up each book from home and let the kids guess what kind of book it is: a songbook, a storybook, a history book, a letter. Then hold up your Bible. Say: "This one Book has songs in it, true history, wise sayings, letters, and the true story of Jesus. It is like a whole library of books inside one Book! Let's find out how many."

2. Bible lesson: God's Big Book (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible. Open it to the list of books near the front (most Bibles have one) and show the kids. Tell it in your own words:

God gave us the Bible. The Bible is God's Word. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16 from your Bible. Scripture** means God's written Word. **Given by inspiration of God** means God gave the words. God used many people to write them down over many, many years. Moses wrote God's law (Deuteronomy 31:9). Paul wrote letters to the churches (Romans 1:1). The Bible says they "spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," God's own Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). So every word comes from God.

One Book, 66 books. The Bible has two big parts. The **Old Testament** has 39 books. It starts with Genesis: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). It tells about the time before Jesus was born. The **New Testament** has 27 books. It tells about Jesus and His church. 39 and 27 make 66 books in one Bible!

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The lesson continues: People often put the books in groups to help them remember. The Bible doesn't name these groups; they are a study help. Show each group in your Bible's list of books:

- **The Law** (Genesis to Deuteronomy, 5 books): God made the world, Noah, Abraham, Moses and the Ten Commandments.
- **History** (Joshua to Esther, 12 books): Joshua, Ruth, David and Goliath, Queen Esther.
- **Poetry and Wisdom** (Job to Song of Solomon, 5 books): songs and prayers, like "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1), and wise sayings in Proverbs.
- **The Prophets** (Isaiah to Malachi, 17 books): God's messages through prophets like Daniel and Jonah.
- **The Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John): the life of Jesus, how He died for us and rose again.
- **Acts:** how the church began.
- **Letters** (Romans to Jude, 21 books): letters written to churches and to believers.
- **Revelation:** the last book. Jesus said, "Surely I come quickly" (Revelation 22:20).

It's all about Jesus. After Jesus rose again, He talked with two of His followers. Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He explained to them "in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). The whole Bible points to Jesus!

A boy who knew God's Word. Timothy knew the holy scriptures "from a child" (2 Timothy 3:15). His grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice had real faith in God (2 Timothy 1:5). You can know God's Word while you are a child too!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who gave us the words of the Bible? *(God, 2 Timothy 3:16)*
2. How many books are in the Bible? *(66: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament)*
3. What is the first book? What is the last book? *(Genesis and Revelation)*
4. Which four books tell about the life of Jesus? *(Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the Gospels)*
5. How long had Timothy known the holy scriptures? *(From a child, 2 Timothy 3:15)*

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4. Memory verse: Verse in Order (5 minutes)

Write the verse on the 5 strips: *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.* Explain the old words: **scripture** means God's written Word, **inspiration of God** means God gave the words, **profitable** means good and helpful, **doctrine** means teaching what is true, **reproof** means showing us when we are wrong, **correction** means helping us make it right, and **instruction in righteousness** means teaching us how to live right. Mix up the strips and let the kids tape them up in the right order. Read the verse together. Then turn one strip around and read it again. Keep turning strips around until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The Bible tells us the most important news of all. It says the holy scriptures can make us 'wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! In the book of Acts, right after the Gospels, the Bible tells us how God takes our sins away: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."

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 or listen to one Bible story every day with your family, and learn the five books of the Law.

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6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **books of the Bible word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/books-of-the-bible-word-search), the books of the Bible crossword, maze, worksheet, coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/books-of-the-bible), or **Line Up the Books:** give the 5 Law cards to 5 kids. They stand in a line in the right order while the class says the names together: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Then do the same with the 4 Gospel cards: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Mix the cards, give them to new kids and play again. For a challenge, time each line.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for giving us Your Word, the Bible. Thank You that every book in it comes from You and tells us about Jesus. Help us love Your Word, read it and do what it says. In Jesus' name, amen."

About the groups: the Bible doesn't divide itself into Law, History, Poetry, Prophets, Gospels and Letters. Those names are a common study help to find books and remember their order. The 66 book names and their order are the books of a King James Bible. Jesus Himself spoke of the things "written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms" concerning Him (Luke 24:44).

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