



3

God's Word Guides Us

Key Themes

- The Bible is inspired by God.
- God's Word is the foundation for our lives.

Key Passages

- 2 Timothy 3:16; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Recognize God's Word is true because God cannot lie.
- List the four ways God's Word guides us.



Lesson Snapshot



Come On In

page 5

Students will place a bookmark at 2 Timothy 3.
Students will arrange the Books of the Bible cards in order.



Activity 1: What's the Address?

page 6

Students will review how to read and write Bible references correctly.



Studying God's Word

page 7

The Bible was written by men who were inspired by God. It is without error and sufficient.
Through it, God has revealed Himself to us.



Activity 2: Pick a Point Game

page 10

Students will review the lesson by playing a review game. Students will team together and pick points after answering the review questions correctly. They will be awarded the number of points on the point card drawn.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Books of the Bible cards from the Resource DVD-ROM, preferably on cardstock. Prepare one set of cards for every 3 to 5 students and place into storage envelopes.
- Cut strips of paper for each student to mark 2 Timothy 3 in their Bibles.

- Books of the Bible cards—one set for every 3–5 students, in envelopes
- Strips of paper for each student



WHAT'S THE ADDRESS?

- No preparation required.



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print the Word and Definition mini-posters from the Resource DVD-ROM. Cut sheets in half with the word on one sheet and the definition on the other.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Word and Definition mini-posters in envelopes
- Optional: minute timer or stopwatch



PICK A POINT GAME

- Print and cut apart the Game Point cards from the Resource DVD-ROM and keep for future use. These will be used to “score” your Pick a Point game today.

- Game Point cards in box or basket



Memory Verse

Psalm 19:7–9 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare your heart and mind, study these passages: 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18.

In His second letter to Timothy, Paul stated, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). The Bible is the inspired (“breathed out”) Word of God, transmitted not by the will of man, but through holy men of God as they were directed by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20–21). These men, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote all that God instructed without error. It is the only inerrant, infallible Word of God, and we can trust it to guide us in all things.

How does it guide us? Paul tells us that it is useful for doctrine—teaching Christian truth; reproof—telling us when we are wrong; correction—showing us how to correct our wrong actions; and instruction in righteousness—teaching us how to obey God (2 Timothy 3:16–17). These are the general guidelines—they are expounded on again and again throughout the Bible.

God has spoken to reveal His plan for history, His purpose for mankind, and His will for us. More than 2,000 times the Old Testament states, “Thus says the Lord,” or something similar, claiming that God Himself is the author. In the New Testament we observe that Jesus preached the Word of God (Luke 5:1), the early church preached the Word of God (Acts 4:31), the Word of God was preached to the Gentiles (Acts 11:1), and Paul preached the Word of God throughout all of his missionary journeys (Acts 13:5, 18:11, 19:10).

The Word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12), given to us by God Himself—to teach us the principles of our faith, to reveal our sin, to show us how to deal with sin, to instruct us how to live in a manner that pleases Him, and ultimately, to reveal to us how we can be redeemed into everlasting life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—the lamb slain before the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As Christians, we believe by faith that God’s Word is His true revelation to us and the foundation upon which we base our lives. Consequently, we have no need to “prove” its authenticity to others. We know that God’s Holy Spirit prompted select men to write the words of Scripture, and these words are inspired by a God who cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18).

However, we would expect a book that came from God to meet certain criteria, including historical, prophetic, and scientific accuracy; a tone of authority; and a life-changing message.

Having said that, we can offer the following evidences to skeptics who ask us why we believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God.

- The Scriptures themselves proclaim to be God’s Word and true as noted above (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:21; Hebrews 1:1–2).
- The Bible’s message contains life-changing power. It transforms sinners into new creatures by the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Neither man nor Satan has been able to destroy God’s Word—“. . . but the word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8).
- Archaeological finds continue to confirm biblical truth. A renowned Jewish archaeologist once claimed, “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.” Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert* (New York: Farrar, Strous, and Cudahy, 1959), p. 136.
- The books of the Bible were written over a period of 1,600 years by 40 authors (from very different walks of life), writing in different places, times, moods, on different continents, in three languages, covering hundreds of controversial subjects—and yet they present absolute harmony from beginning to end.
- Old Testament passages give more than 50 prophecies of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and every prophecy (written over 400 years before His birth) came true.

For those of us with faith to believe, these findings serve as confirmation that we worship a mighty God who does not change. He speaks to us through the consistently preserved Scriptures so we can know Him, His character, His purpose, and His plan to redeem a people to Himself for all eternity.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Bible is God’s very Word to us. It will guide us through everything we encounter as we rely on it (Proverbs 30:5–6; Psalm 73:24; Psalm 119:133; 2 Peter 1:3). Because of this promise, His Word has been precious to believers throughout history. It has been copied and

translated more than any other book, as it continues to guide people around the world.

The Greek Septuagint translation of the Old Testament was used, along with hand-written manuscripts of the New Testament gospels and epistles, in the early church. However, as the gospel spread, it became important to provide the Scriptures in other languages.

In 405 AD Jerome translated the Old and New Testaments from the original Hebrew and Greek into Latin. This became known as the Vulgate. This text was understood only by the elite, most of whom were priests. They were determined to keep the Bible from the ordinary people. Translation into common languages was discouraged and often severely prohibited.

Beginning in the 14th century a new desperation developed to make the Scriptures available to the common man. For too long the Roman church had shackled the Scriptures—but they were about to be unleashed. God’s Word would not be restrained—He intended for it to guide us through life.

Following represents some of the history of the Bible and when it became available.

- c. 1400 BC—The first written Word of God—the Ten Commandments.
- c. 500 BC—Original Hebrew Manuscripts completed.
- 1st century AD—All original Greek manuscripts of the New Testament were completed.
- 1382—The Wycliffe Bible; a middle English translation from the Latin Vulgate.
- 1526—The Tyndale Bible; a modern English translation from the original Greek and Hebrew.
- 1534—Martin Luther’s German Bible is published from the Greek.

- 1539—The Great Bible; the first English translation to be authorized for public use; commissioned by Henry VIII.
- 1560—The Geneva Bible; the first study Bible published and the first English language Bible to include numbered verses to each chapter.
- 1611—The King James Bible was printed and became the main primary Bible of the English language for the next 300 years.

Today, the Bible continues to be the most translated book in the world. As of 2005, portions of the Bible had been translated into 2,400 languages. God is continuing to guide us with His Word as He continues to make His Word available to every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5:9).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord, thank you for the precious treasure of your Word. How I long to know it better and know you better. Please forgive me for the laziness and indifference I so often demonstrate toward Bible study. Help me Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to convey to the children in my class a love for your Word. Use your Word to lead them to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior through faith—a faith that can only come by hearing your Word. Make me genuinely enthusiastic about this lesson and allow that enthusiasm to ignite in the hearts of these precious children.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- Have them place a bookmark at 2 Timothy 3:16.
- Provide envelopes containing cards with the names of the books of the Bible for groups of three to five students. Students are to place the books in the proper order. They can use the Books of the Bible poster or their own Bibles to confirm the right order. If time allows, have them do it a second time without looking at the poster or their Bible.

This activity will be repeated throughout the quarter.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.





What's the Address?

MATERIALS

- Whiteboard or chalkboard

INSTRUCTIONS

This activity is optional and is provided for those classes where most students are not yet experienced in how to look up Bible verses.

You are becoming students of the Bible! I wanted to explain something that will help you as a student of the Bible. *Point to Memory Verse poster.* Notice on our Memory Verse poster the reference that tells us where in the Bible to find this verse. I want to show you how to write Bible references correctly.

Write on the board, "2 Timothy" while explaining. First we write the name of the book of the Bible where the passage is found. By the way, we are going to take time each week to memorize the order of those books so we can quickly find our way to a passage. You may look in the table of contents at the front of your Bible if you need help to locate this book. *Show children where the table of contents is. Encourage them to use it.*

Find the book Second Timothy—the table of contents will show what page it is in your Bible. *Allow time for students to locate the information. Help students who aren't sure what to do.*

Next, we write a number to tell others what chapter of the book to look in. *After the name*

"2 Timothy," write on the board, "3." Look in your Bible for chapter three of 2 Timothy. Again, help students to find the chapters. Show them what you mean in their Bibles. Or have the children help each other.

Now we're going to write another number to identify which verse to look at. But it would be very confusing if we didn't separate the two numbers somehow. So we use this mark—a colon—after the chapter number and then we write the number of the verse. *Write on the board, ":" and "16."*

In your Bible, look for the small verse numbers in chapter three. They can be hard to find. You have to look very carefully. *Wait for the children to see where the verse marks are—and have them find verse 16.*

Now, if I wanted to tell you to look at more than one verse, I would use another punctuation mark—a dash. So if I wanted to guide you to look at verses sixteen **and** seventeen, I would add a dash and the number 17 to the reference. *Write on the board, "16-17."*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

If the Bible is going to become our favorite book, it is important for us to know how to find our way around in it quickly.





Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Now let's read this week's Scripture passage together. It comes from the same book we studied last week, Second Timothy.

- ? Who remembers the author of this book? *The Apostle Paul.*
- ? And who was Timothy? *His young Greek friend.*

Let's read 2 Timothy 3:16 together. *Read passage aloud together.*

2 Timothy 3:16

EXAMINE THE WORD

OK. Let's apply what we learned last week from our friend Herman, and see if we can understand this passage better.

Observe the Text

Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God's Word by asking the right questions.

- ? We know that Paul wrote this. Do you remember what most of Paul's writings from the Bible are called? *Epistle, letter.*

We learned last session that much of the New Testament was written by Paul and most of the books are actually epistles, or letters, that were written to churches that he had started. Paul wrote this epistle to Timothy after Jesus rose from the dead. The believers were teaching others to trust Christ. They were preaching the gospel and new churches were being started. This is when these churches were being started—a little less than 2,000 years ago. *Indicate that period between AD 30 and 50 on the Seven C's Timeline.*

- ? How was Scripture given? *If the children can't answer have one of them read 2 Timothy 3:16 again. By inspiration of God.*

Inspiration means that Scripture was breathed out by God Himself. *Attach the Word and Definition mini-posters with the word "Inspiration" and its definition to the board with poster putty or tape.*

We're not very familiar with that idea because you and I can't breathe our influence into other people. But that is what God did. He used the power of His Holy Spirit to guide the minds and souls of the writers so they would write what He wanted them to write. This makes the Bible different from every other book on earth.

- ? According to the first word in this verse—2 Timothy 3:16—how much of Scripture is inspired? *All.*



Inspiration:
breathed out
by God

SOVEREIGN

Titus 1:2

Hebrews 6:18

Profitable:
helpful

Doctrine:
teaching
Christian truth

God wrote the Bible using godly men. They wrote what God intended for them to write.

? Who tells God what to do? *No one.*

He is sovereign. He is in complete control of everything! God does everything that He pleases! *Point out the word sovereign on the Attributes of God poster. Have the children read the definition together.*

Let me read something that Paul wrote in another epistle. Listen very carefully. *Read Titus 1:2. Emphasize the phrase, "who cannot lie."*

? What does this passage tell us about God's character? *He cannot lie.*

And in another epistle—or letter—this one to the Hebrews, it is mentioned again. Go to Hebrews 6:18. *Have the children look this passage up.*

Listen carefully while I read it. *Read Hebrews 6:18. Again emphasize the phrase, "it is impossible for God to lie."*

? What did we hear again in this passage about God's truthfulness? *It is impossible for God to lie.*

? So, if God guided men to write His words, would He allow them to make a mistake, creating a lie? *No.*

Paul also wrote in this verse that all Scripture is "Profitable." Profitable means helpful.

? Who will read the first part of 2 Timothy 3:16? This time when you read it, use the word "helpful" in place of "profitable." *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is helpful.*

? Look carefully at verse 16 and tell me how many times God used the word "for." *Let the children look. Call on someone to answer: four times.*

This tells us that God inspired Scripture to be helpful for *four* specific reasons.

? Can you find those reasons? The reasons follow the word "for" in verse 16. *Have the children answer one at a time: for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. As children respond with each of these answers, attach the mini-posters Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, and Instruction to the board.*

Let's think about the meaning of each of these words.

? Who would like to read this first definition? *Offer "Doctrine" definition mini-poster to a student to place on the board next to the word "Doctrine." Have the student read: "Doctrine means teaching Christian truth."*

We learn our Christian truths by reading the Bible.

- ? **Who would like to read this definition?** Offer "Reproof" definition mini-poster to a student to place on the board next to the word "Reproof." Have the student read: "Reproof means telling us when we are wrong."

When we do wrong in God's eyes, we have sinned.

- ? **What has God given us to help us see our sin and know right from wrong?** There is a clue on one of our posters. To help the children, point to the Ten Commandments poster.

That's right. These commandments offer God's reproof because they help us to see how much we sin.

- ? **OK. Will someone read this definition?** Offer "Correction" definition mini-poster to a student to place on the board next to the word "Correction." Have the student read: "Correction means showing us how to correct our wrong actions."

God's Word shows us when we sin and gives us a solution to our sin. God offers forgiveness and a way to help us with our sin problem.

- ? **Who would like to read this definition?** Offer "Instruction in Righteousness" mini-poster with definition to a student to place on the board next to the word "Instruction." Have the student read: "Instruction in righteousness means teaching us how to obey God."

Now let's read the verse again and include these definitions. Point to the matching Word and Definition mini-posters as you recite the verse: *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (breathed out by God) and is profitable (helpful) for doctrine (teaching Christian truth), for reproof (telling us when we are wrong), for correction (showing us how to correct our mistakes), and instruction in righteousness (teaching us how to obey God).*

Discover the Truth

This one verse—2 Timothy 3:16—tells us so much. God has given us His Word, written by men, inspired by God Himself! We know His Word is true because God cannot lie. His Word helps us four ways: doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. *Review the definitions you have posted for each of these words again.*

We can always trust God's Word to be true. Because we know that it is inspired by God Himself, we can be confident as we rely on it to direct our lives.

What a great lesson. Let's just see how much you remember!



Reproof:
telling us when
we are wrong

Correction:
showing us
how to correct
our wrong
actions

**Instruction in
righteousness:**
teaching us
how to obey
God



Pick a Point Game

MATERIALS

- Review questions (see below)
- Bag or basket with Game Point cards

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the class into two or more teams. Have each team take turns answering questions. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a number card from the basket. This will be the number of points their team gets for this answer. The number of points on the cards will vary so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. The effort to earn points will keep the students tuned into the game. Repeat any questions that were missed the first time through. Keep a list of the teams' points to determine the "winner" for the day.

We're going to play Pick a Point to help us remember what we studied today. Provide instructions about how to play.

- Where did we get the Bible? *God inspired men to write His words.*
- God's Word is profitable for us. What does profitable mean? *Helpful.*
- God's Word instructs in righteousness. What does that mean? *Teaches us how to obey God.*
- God's Word is helpful for doctrine. What is doctrine? *Teaching Christian truth.*
- What are the three steps we follow when we study a Bible passage? *Observe, Interpret, Apply.*
- Who inspired the Bible? *God.*

- We listened to verses from Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:18 which told us something about God. What is it? *God cannot lie.*
- What does reproof mean? *Telling us when we're wrong.*
- How do we know that the Bible is absolutely true? *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God who cannot lie and does not make mistakes.*
- What kind of literature is the book of 2 Timothy? *Epistle, letter.*
- We can rely on the Bible to guide us in what we should and should not do. What is that called according to 2 Timothy 3:16? *Correction.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God's Word has to be our final authority. Studying God's Word by asking the right questions, reading it, and listening carefully to teachers and pastors are great ways to learn. You'll soon be answering lots of questions you once considered difficult.

- ? Can anyone tell me just one thing you learned today from God's Word? It's OK to look all around the room. There are lots of hints all over. *Allow children to look around and express some of the things discussed.*





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

This has been a great lesson. God can teach us so much in just a few verses—as you begin to read more and more you will see that the Bible is full of wonderful lessons. We know that this book is inspired by God Himself. He cannot lie. Because of that, we can trust it to be the very foundation for our lives. *Show the Lesson Theme poster and go over these ideas.*

God's Word will always guide us. And the more we study it the more guidance God will give us.

This week you will have an opportunity in your Student Take Home Sheet to read some verses about God's inspiration of the Bible. As you read them, remember to observe, interpret, and apply!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

A lot of people don't believe the Bible at all. They think it is just a lot of made-up stories. You may know people who don't believe the Bible and can't understand why in the world you would believe it.

Some of these people are just misguided, and may have never heard the truth about the Bible. Others may be set against the Bible and the things of God, and don't care who they might offend.

? If you run into friends like these, what would you say to them? *Let the children answer.*

Those are great answers. We always need to be ready to tell our friends about the truth in the Bible. We know it's true because God doesn't lie. And it gives us everything we need to know—it should always be our foundation. *Emphasize that we need to know God's Word, rely on it, and use our biblical glasses so we can be ready to make good, wise, and God-honoring decisions.*



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 19:7–9

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

? Who can say the memory verse for me?

Have one of the children read it. Or you may want to split the class and have different teams read it together. Girls, boys, blondes, brunettes, loudest, quietest, etc. Repetition is the key to learning these verses.

? Can anyone say it without looking? Who wants to give that a try? *Encourage the children to try it—give them help if needed.*



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Praise God for being faithful and sovereign.
- Thank Him for His written Word.
- Ask for opportunities to tell others that the Word of God is true.