



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 Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will arrange the Books of the New Testament cards in order.



Activity 1: What's the Address?

page 5

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



Studying God's Word

page 6

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: The Bible Helps Us!

page 9

Students will complete a worksheet illustrating the meaning of the words doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- If you did not do this previously, print and cut out the Books of the New Testament cards from the Resource DVD-ROM, Lesson 2, for every 3–5 students. Store in envelopes or other container.

- Books of the New Testament cards—one set for every 3–5 students



WHAT'S THE ADDRESS?

- Print one What's the Address? activity sheet for each student, and print one teacher script for your use from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- What's the Address? activity sheet for each student

- What's the Address? teacher script
- Pencils or crayons



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Board Work outline



THE BIBLE HELPS US!

- Print one The Bible Helps Us! maze from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- The Bible Helps Us! maze for each student
- Crayons and pencils



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 without error all that God instructed. 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 beliefs; 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, 19:133; 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 . . .

- Provide envelopes containing Books of the New Testament cards for groups of 3–5 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.

Read the names of the books aloud together.

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.



1 What's the Address?

MATERIALS

- What's the Address? activity sheet for each student
- What's the Address? teacher script
- Pencils or crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the What's the Address? activity sheets.

Follow the What's the Address? teacher script as you help the children learn how to read and write Bible references correctly.

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. Knowing the address helps to find the verses we are going to read. The Bible is a big book. But the more you use it, the quicker you will find everything in it.





Studying God's Word

2 Timothy 3:16

READ THE WORD

We are going to read 2 Timothy 3:16.

- ? Does anyone remember who wrote this book of the New Testament? *The Apostle Paul.*
- ? And who did he write it to? There is a clue in the name of the book. *His young friend Timothy.*

Let's find 2 Timothy 3:16 in your Bibles. I'm going to read it to you. *Help the children find the verse then read it aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

The Apostle Paul wrote a lot of the New Testament. And he wrote this letter to his friend Timothy after Jesus rose from the dead. The believers were teaching others about Jesus Christ. They were preaching the gospel and new churches were being started. This is when these churches were being started. *Indicate that period between AD 30 and 50 on the Seven C's Timeline.*

The verse says that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God.

- ? Do you know what Scripture is? *Allow for answers.*
It is the Bible or God's Word.
- ? Then there is the word inspiration. The verse says all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. What do you think that means? *Allow for answers.*

It means that God wrote the Bible—it is His Word. The writers of the Bible, like the Apostle Paul, actually wrote the words, but God was telling them what to write.

God helped all the writers of the Bible write just what He wanted them to write. Because the Bible is God's Word, it is different from any other book in the world.

- ? What is the first word of this verse? Let's look at it together. *All.*
- ? According to the first word in this verse—2 Timothy 3:16—how much of Scripture is God's Word? *All of it.*
God wrote the Bible using godly men. They wrote what God wanted them to write.
- ? Who tells God what to do? *No one.*



Inspiration:
God wrote the Bible.

He is sovereign. That means 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 it together.*

- ? Let me read something that Paul wrote in another letter. Listen very carefully. This is something the Apostle Paul wrote to Titus. Who can find the book Titus on the Books of the Bible poster here? *Allow someone to find the book Titus.*

Very good. Now let me read Titus 1:2. *Read Titus 1:2. Emphasize the phrase, "who cannot lie."*

- ? What does this verse tell us about God? *He cannot lie.*

I want to read something else. Hebrews 6:18. Listen carefully while I read it. *Read the phrase "it is impossible for God to lie" from Hebrews 6:18.*

- ? What did this tell us about God? *It is impossible for God to lie. He cannot lie.*

God cannot lie. That's what we just read. That means that everything in the Bible is true because the Bible is God's Word.

Now the Apostle Paul tells us some interesting things about the Bible. Listen again while I read what they are: "All Scripture . . . is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness." Scripture is God's Word. *Write on the board, "God's Word Is good for . . ." Next, say the following words and have the children repeat them as you write them on the board. Say and write "Doctrine," "Reproof," "Correction," and "Instruction."*

But what does that mean? These are some big words. Let me give you a picture to help you understand them.

Have you ever been on a hike? Have you ever had to follow a path through the woods? It is important to stay on the path, isn't it? If you get off the path you might get lost!

Well, we are all on a path—the path is life. And the Bible tells us how to stay on the right path. That is what doctrine is. It is the truth we read in the Bible. Doctrine is God's Word. When we read the Bible and obey what it says, we will stay on the right path. We won't get lost! *On the board next to the word "Doctrine," write "helps us stay on the right path."*

"Reproof" is telling us when we do something wrong. When you disobey your parents they tell you, right? That is reproof. They tell you when you get off the right path. The Bible does the same thing. If you read and study the Bible, it will tell you when you are doing something wrong. It tells you when you get off the right path. *On the board next to the word "Reproof," write "tells us when we do something wrong."*

"Correction" is our next word. When your parents correct you they are showing you the right way to do something. The Bible does the same thing. The Word of God corrects us. It tells us the right way to do things

SOVEREIGN

(Refer to Attributes poster)

Titus 1:2

Hebrews 6:18

- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for easier planning.

Doctrine: God's Word helps us stay on the right path.

Reproof: God's Word tells us when we are wrong and get off the right path.

Correction:
God's Word shows us the right way and gets us back on the right path.

Instruction:
God's Word shows us how to obey God and helps us stay on the right path.

especially when we are doing something wrong. It helps us to stay on the right path by correcting us. *On the board next to the word "Correction," write "shows us the right way to do things."*

Last but not least is "Instruction." You probably get a lot of instruction from your parents. They are teaching you things you may not know. The Bible does the same thing. It teaches us how to obey God. Instruction from God's Word helps us stay on the right path. *On the board next to the word "Instruction," write "teaches us how to obey God."*

Let's stand up together and pretend we are on a journey. *All walk in place. (If you have lots of space you could actually form a line and walk together.)* We are going along on the right path. We know what the Bible teaches and we believe the right things. That is called doctrine. Doctrine is God's Word. Say doctrine with me. *Doctrine. Walk at the front of the line staying on the path.* Now we step off the path! *Have the children move from the "path" they are following.*

Uh Oh! We have done something wrong! The Bible tells us when we are doing something that is against what God says. It tells us when we are off the path. That is called reproof. Reproof means to show us what we did wrong. Say reproof with me. *Reproof.*

Stay off the path! Now before we can get back on the path we need correction. Correction tells us the right way to do things. The Bible shows us how to correct our mistakes so we can get back on the right path. Say correction with me. *Correction.*

Move back onto the path. We wandered off the path! We disobeyed God. The Bible gave us reproof and then correction so now we are back on the path. There is one more thing that will help us stay on the right path. That is instruction. The Bible gives instruction. It tells us how to obey God. It helps us stay on the right path! Say instruction with me. *Instruction.*

Great! Everyone sit down. And let's stay on the right path!

Discover the Truth

This one verse—2 Timothy 3:16—tells us so much. God has given us the Bible. It is His Word. We know His Word is true because the Bible tells us that God cannot lie. His Word helps us four ways: doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. *Refer to the board work.*

I want to tell you about a boy named Fred. Fred wants to stay on the right path but sometimes it is hard. One day he left his pencil at home. Fred's classmate, Timmy, had two pencils. While Timmy wasn't looking Fred took one of his pencils. Timmy noticed and asked "Did you take my

pencil?” Fred was scared and said quickly, “NO!” Fred had gone off the right path and that is not good! He forgot to think about God’s Word. *Refer to the word Doctrine on the board.*

A little while later Fred remembered something he read in the Bible. He read it is wrong to steal and it is wrong to lie. The Bible helped Fred see what he did wrong. That is reproof. *Refer to Reproof on the board.*

Now what did he do? Well, Fred knew the Bible said that he should be honest and that he needed to make it right with Timmy. So Fred told Timmy that he took his pencil, he gave it back, and asked for forgiveness. The Bible told Fred what he should do. That is correction. *Refer to Correction on the board.*

Well, not only that, Fred knows some other things from the Bible. Like he should obey his parents and he should love others—everybody even his little sister. He knows that he shouldn’t steal or lie. He reads lots of things in the Bible that tell him what honors God. Fred is beginning to understand that the Bible can teach him a whole lot about obeying God. The Bible can instruct him on how he can stay on the right path—that is instruction. *Refer to Instruction on the board.*



The Bible Helps Us!

MATERIALS

- Bible Helps Us! maze for each student
- Pencils and crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Give each child a copy of The Bible Helps Us! maze and a pencil.

Let’s look at this maze together. This picture will help us understand the new words we learned today. It is a picture of someone walking on a path. Maybe it’s Fred!

Help Fred find his way and stay on the right path. He will pass doctrine—God’s Word. And then he will cross over reproof—the Bible tells him when he does something

wrong. Next will be correction—the Bible tells him what he needs to do to fix it. Last is instruction—the Bible tells him how to obey God! *Refer to the board work.*

If time allows, have the children color the maze.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God’s Word will always guide us. It shows us how to stay on the right path and honor God in our life. It shows us when we are doing wrong, or getting off the path. It helps us correct our wrong actions, or get back on the path. If we follow the instructions of the Bible we will stay on the right path!





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

This has been a great lesson. We know that this book—the Bible, is inspired by God Himself. He cannot lie. Because of that, we can trust it to be the very foundation for our lives.

God's Word can guide us if we read it and believe it. It guides us through *doctrine*—helping us stay on the right path. It guides us through *reproof*—letting us know when we have done something wrong. It guides us through *correction*—showing us the right way to do the things that we might have messed up on. And it guides us through *instruction*—showing us how to obey God in every area of our life. *Refer to the board work and the maze.*

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

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

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

But what you know is that every word of the Bible is true because God doesn't lie. The Bible helps us and can help your friends to honor and obey God.



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.

Why not sing the Word of God song again? It is to the tune of "London Bridge is Falling Down." The song sheet is on the Resource DVD-ROM, Lesson 2.



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.