



4

God Preserves His Word

Key Theme

- God has preserved His Word.

Key Passages

- Jeremiah 36:22–23, 36:27–28

Lesson Focus

- God's Word will last forever!



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—God always has and always will protect His Word. His Word will last forever.

Song—Children use hand and body motions while singing these songs from the Flip Chart: Oh Be Sure to Read the Bible, and God Can't Lie. If time permits, sing the Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse song.



Activity 1: Roll a Scroll

Students will make a scroll with the memory verse on it.



Activity 2: Bubble Burst

Students will try to burst bubbles blown into the circle illustrating they could never be preserved like God's Word. God's Word will last forever.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Set play dough at each child's seat before class begins.

- Play dough
- Cookie cutters, plastic knives, rolling pins, etc.



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- A favorite toy for illustration (or use the stuffed animal from prayer time)
- Zippered storage bag
- Bowl of water



ROLL A SCROLL

- Print one Roll a Scroll from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Complete a scroll to show the children.

- Scroll for each student
- Crayons
- Ribbon pieces
- Completed scroll



BUBBLE BURST

- Bring in bubbles and bubble blowers.

- Bubbles and bubble blowers



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare your heart and mind, study these passages: Luke 24:13–27; 2 Chronicles 34:14–32; Jeremiah 36.

The Old Testament begins God's Word—the history of the universe. It contains 39 books and tells us about ancient Israel and God's promise of the Messiah. This precious history has been revealed and preserved for us since the beginning of time.

One dramatic biblical episode of God preserving His word begins in 2 Chronicles 34 during King Josiah's reign over Judah near the beginning of the seventh century BC. Josiah began a period of reformation in Judah. The people before him had completely turned away from God. But Josiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord and walked in His ways (2 Chronicles 34:2). The house of the Lord had been desecrated and Josiah commanded that it be repaired (2 Chronicles 34:8). It was during this restoration of the temple that Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given by Moses (2 Chronicles 34:14). When Josiah heard the Word of the Lord read he was convicted of the idolatry and sin in the land. He tore his clothes in repentance (2 Chronicles 34:19). Because of Josiah's tender heart and humble spirit before God when he heard the words, God's judgment was withheld from Judah for the time (2 Chronicles 34:27–28).

However, when Josiah's son Jehoiakim became king, the people once again turned their backs on God and His Word. This is when the Word of the Lord came to the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 36:1) and he was instructed by the Lord to write the words of judgment against Israel and Judah and all the nations (Jeremiah 36:2). Jeremiah dictated God's Word as Baruch wrote the scroll (Jeremiah 36:4). When the scroll was finished and read to King Jehoiakim, he was not afraid, repentant, or humble before the Lord as his father had been (Jeremiah 36:24). Instead, he purposed to destroy the Word of God by casting the scroll into the fire after only a small portion of it had been read (Jeremiah 36:22–23).

But was King Jehoiakim able to destroy God's Word even with fire? No. God will always preserve His Word and did so then. He called Jeremiah again and instructed that yet another scroll be written. Jeremiah took the scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe who wrote on it. It contained all the words (and more) of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire (Jeremiah 36:32).

God has always been and will always be faithful to preserve His Word. In the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8).

And in the words of the psalmist, “The entirety of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever” (Psalm 119:160).

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

You may encounter people who don't necessarily feel that the Old Testament is significant to today's culture. It is, however, the Word of God. And God has taken great strides to preserve it in order to reveal His truth and plan of redemption completely.

As we study our Lord's life recorded in the New Testament, we see one who relied on the truth and promises of the Old Testament. Indeed, Jesus placed such a high value on the inspired Word of God that even He—the very Son of God, the Messiah—willingly submitted Himself to its authority while on earth. He relied on it to resist the temptations of Satan (Matthew 4), and He read from it when He taught in the synagogues. In fact, He was reading from the Old Testament book of Isaiah when He proclaimed that He was the Messiah who fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (Luke 4:16–21).

On the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13), after His Resurrection, the Lord admonished his companions to believe the prophets (Luke 24:25). And as they walked, Jesus taught them from the Scriptures, beginning at the writings of Moses and all through the Prophets, the things concerning Him—that He was the one sent to redeem Israel (Luke 24:21). Jesus Christ studied, taught, obeyed, and lived the Scriptures of the Old Testament. Because He held them in such high regard, we should as well.

We do well to remember His words to Satan during His temptation, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

God has preserved His Word for thousands of years. And He has been gracious to leave historical evidence that confirms the Bible. We know that the ancient Hebrews relied on Scripture. They recognized the inspiration of certain texts and depended on them for wisdom.

The five books of Moses, beginning with Genesis, were written around 1500 BC and chronicle the history of the earth over the previous 2,500 years. After that, the remaining books were written by prophets and scribes. These holy men of God spoke as they were moved

by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19–21). The words were recorded on scrolls and carefully transmitted through the generations with painstaking diligence to ensure their accuracy. The final record from the Old Testament prophets came at the hand of Malachi. His prophecy of the coming Prophet (Malachi 3–4) begins a period of 400 years of silence before John the Baptist proclaimed the arrival of Christ.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered at Qumran in 1947, gave rise to additional confirmation of these ancient texts. This finding presented Old Testament manuscripts dated as early as 150 BC. These manuscripts were written nearly 1,000 years before other manuscripts already discovered, and proved to be the same as those previously found.

For example, a copy of the book of Isaiah, which was part of the findings at Qumran, dated about 150 BC. Prior to this, the oldest dated manuscript of the book of Isaiah was around AD 980. Yet when these two copies of Isaiah were compared they were found to be 95 percent accurate to the Hebrew Bible.

This evidence of ancient Old Testament Hebrew texts together with the astounding number—more than 24,000—of partial and complete manuscript copies of the New Testament give us solid historical background to the reliability of the Bible. Biblical scholars have agreed that the number of manuscripts supporting the

Bible provide unparalleled authentication of the original documents. In fact, the Bible has more documentation to verify it than any other book of antiquity that is commonly accepted.

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.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Father, please enable me to give the Bible the same honor and authority over my life that it had over Christ's life and ministry. I know that you gave me your Word so that I could be complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work. Please help me prepare for this class so that the students will be moved to honor your Word. Develop in them a passion that will lead them to a spirit of humility and obedience toward the Scriptures. Thank you for faithfully preserving your Word from all attacks.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will play with play dough. Talk to the children about how God has preserved His Word, kind of like how the container for the play dough keeps the dough from drying out so we can use it again next week. Tell them that God's Word will NEVER change.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons 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 pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, toy, zippered storage bag, bowl of water, a completed scroll craft, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

After the children are situated in the circle, say:

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and tell God what we are thankful for.

I'll start. Dear God, You give us everything. Today I want to thank you especially for . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their own confidence in praying to God.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of thanksgiving.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

? Before we begin, what is this? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*

? What is in this Bible? *God's Holy Word!*

? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*

? And all God's words in this Bible are what? *True!*

All of God's words are true. And God's Word can't be destroyed. It will last forever! *Show the children your Bible.*

The Old Testament is God's Word and He loves it very much. He will always preserve it. *Open your Bible to the Old Testament.*

? Have you ever heard the word "preserve"? *Allow for answers.*

Preserve means to protect or to keep safe. I have a very special toy here. *Hold up the toy for the children to see. You could use the stuffed animal from prayer time.*

I am going to place this special toy in this plastic zippered storage bag to keep it safe. Now watch as I put the toy in this bowl of water.

? Is the toy wet or dry? *Dry.*

? Why is it dry? *Because it is in a plastic bag.*

That's right! The plastic bag kept the toy dry. The plastic bag preserved the toy. I did not want the toy to get wet, so I kept it safe by putting it in the plastic bag.

? Does God need a plastic bag to keep His Word safe? *No!*

Of course He doesn't. God is powerful and wise. He has always protected His Word and kept it safe and He always will. God's Word will last forever! He will protect His Word like I protected this toy—only better! His Word will last forever!

Did you know that the Bible is the most popular book in the whole world? There is no book that can compare to it because God wrote it. The Bible is very special. The Bible will last forever!

But there are some people who don't think God's Word is special at all! They might even hate God and His Word so much that they want to destroy it!

? Do you think God would really allow people to destroy His true Word? *No.*

► As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

Never! The Bible tells us about a king who once tried to destroy God's Word. I am going to read something to you out of Jeremiah from the Old Testament.

? **Can you say Jeremiah?** *Repeat the word several times. Show them where the book is in the Bible. Open to Jeremiah 36:22–23.*

Before I read it let me tell you about this king. This was King Jehoiakim. He did not love or fear God. He did not like God's Word at all. We are going to read about a time when someone was reading God's Word to the king. The king didn't like it. Listen carefully. You will hear what the king did to God's Word! *Read Jeremiah 36:22–23 out loud to the children. Read with expression to help them answer the following questions.*

? **Where was the King sitting?** *In the house.*

That's right. The king was in his house near the fire.

? **What did the king do to God's Word? Did you hear?** *Reread Jeremiah 36:23 if necessary emphasizing "the king cut it with the knife and put it in the fire." Refer to the Flip Chart.*

King Jehoiakim threw the pieces of the scroll—God's Word—into the fire until they were burned up and gone. The words of God were gone! They could not get them back! King Jehoiakim destroyed the words of God!

But wait a minute! I thought God would always preserve His Word and keep it safe! That is true. No man can destroy God's Word. Even in a fire.

Listen to what happened next! God spoke again to Jeremiah and told him to do something. Listen carefully and tell me what he told Jeremiah to do. *Read Jeremiah 36:27–28 emphasizing "take yet another scroll and write on it."*

? **What did the Lord say to Jeremiah?** *Allow for answers. Reread that part of the verse if necessary.*

The Lord told Jeremiah to take another scroll and write the words of God again. God's Word cannot be destroyed. God's Word will last forever! Man cannot destroy God's Word. It has never changed. It will last forever! So, Jeremiah had his friend, Baruch, write down what God was telling him. *Refer to Flip Chart.* Our Flip Chart shows Jeremiah's friend, Baruch, writing the words of God on a new scroll. We are going to make a scroll later. They didn't have books like this back then. *Hold up your Bible.* So they wrote on scrolls like this. *Show your completed scroll.* We are going to make our own scroll like this after we sing.

SONG

I love God's Word. It is so exciting! God wants all of us to love His Word and to read it. We know that everything in God's Word is true because God can't lie! Let's sing about God's wonderful gift to us! The Holy Bible. His Word! Everybody up. *Sing the songs "God Can't Lie" and "Oh, Be Sure to Read the Bible." The lyrics to these songs are on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide and on the Song Page of the Flip Chart.*

Jeremiah 36:22–23

Jeremiah 36:27–28

- Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning.
- As the children sing, have them join hands and walk around in a circle. Put someone in the middle of the circle. You can move around that person as a group. You can also sing the "Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse" song if time allows.

Good job! Now, let's go back to our seats. We are going to make our very own scroll with a part of God's Word on it. This scroll has our memory verse on it. *Show a completed scroll project.*



Roll a Scroll

MATERIALS

- Scroll for each student
- Crayons
- Ribbon piece for each student to tie around the scroll
- Completed scroll

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the scrolls for each student. They will color the scrolls. Then help them roll up the scroll and tie the ribbon around it.

This scroll has our memory verse on it. It says that every Word of God is pure. We know God's Word is true. And we know that God's Word can't be destroyed. It will last forever!

When you are finished coloring it very neatly we will help you roll it and tie the ribbon to it. This could be like the scroll of Jeremiah's day, the one King Jehoiakim threw into the fire.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God will not let His Word be destroyed. The king could not destroy God's Word even in the fire. After the king tried to get rid of God's Word, God had Jeremiah write all the words down again onto a scroll. God's Word will last forever! The Bible is God's Word to us, and He wants us to know it. His Words are true. God will always protect His Word so that no one can destroy it.



Bubble Burst

MATERIALS

- Bubbles and bubble blower

INSTRUCTIONS

Put children in a circle in the room. Blow bubbles into the circle. Depending on the size of your class, you may want more than one circle and/or more than one person blowing the bubbles. You could also allow the children to take turns blowing bubbles into the circle.

Have the children try to burst all the bubbles before they hit the ground, then move back into the circle. Repeat as time allows.

I am going to blow some bubbles into the air. I want you to try to burst them before they hit the ground. These bubbles are easy

to burst. In fact, even the ones we don't hit with our hands fall to the ground and disappear.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Repeat this often throughout the activity. Can we easily burst these bubbles and destroy them? Yes!

? Can we preserve these bubbles forever? No!

But, God's Word will NEVER disappear like these bubbles do! No one will destroy His Word. His Word will last forever! Even King Jehoiakim couldn't destroy God's Word in the fire. And no one will ever be able to destroy God's Word. His Word will last forever!



Memory Verse/Snack

Proverbs 30:5 Every Word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try to say it on their own.

You could also sing the Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse song.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God always has and always will preserve His Word. No one will ever be able to destroy it. His Word will last forever. God has preserved and protected His Word in the past so we can read the Bible and know about God and Jesus today! All of God's words are true and He will keep His words safe. His Word will last forever!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Some people in the world today are like King Jehoiakim. They don't like God and they don't like God's Word. They would like to see God's Word destroyed forever! We need to remember that God's Word is pure, His Word is true, His Word will last forever, His Word has everything we need to know. God will always protect His Word. We can trust it. Don't let anyone tell you anything different!

Let's pray to God, the one who has given us His Word, and has preserved His Word.

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



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for keeping His Word safe
- Thank God that His Word will last forever
- Thank God that the Bible tells us everything we need to know and we can trust it

Do you still have more time? Review the past lessons using the Flip Chart, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

GOD CAN'T LIE

(To the tune of "Do you Know the Muffin Man?")

Get in a circle. Hold hands and go around as you sing.

Do you know that God can't lie?

(Do you know the muffin man?)

God can't lie. God can't lie.

(The muffin man, the muffin man.)

Do you know that God can't lie?

(Do you know the muffin man,)

God's Word is always true!

(Who lives on Drury Lane?)

Stop. Start singing and switch directions in the circle.

Do you know that God can't lie?

God can't lie. God can't lie.

Do you know that God can't lie?

His Word will light the way!

OH BE SURE TO READ THE BIBLE

(To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

Oh be sure to read the Bible every day.

(If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.)

Clap clap or stomp stomp.

Oh be sure to read the Bible every day.

(If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.)

Clap clap or stomp stomp.

For God's Word is what we learn,

(If you're happy and you know it,)

From our sins it helps us turn.

(Then your face will surely show it.)

Oh be sure to read the Bible every day!

(If you're happy and you know it clap your hands!)

Clap clap or stomp stomp.