



God's Word Is Complete

5

Key Theme

- God's written Word is complete

Key Passages

- Revelation 22:18–19; Proverbs 30:6; Deuteronomy 4:2

Lesson Focus

- God's Word is complete.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will work together to assemble puzzles you have brought in or you have in the classroom.



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's Word is final and complete. It was written down by men with the help of the Holy Spirit and is God's word to us.

Song—Lead children in singing the songs God's Complete Word, God's Word is Perfect, and the Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse song.



Activity 1: What's Missing?

The teacher will hold up pictures of various items that are missing important pieces. The teacher will ask, "What is missing?" In between the "What's Missing?" picture cards, the teacher will hold up the Bible and ask, "What is missing?" Students will answer, "Nothing, God's Word is complete!"



Activity 2: Bible Picture Puzzle

Students will put their own simple puzzle together, but will realize that a piece is missing! The teacher has withheld their missing piece and will give them the piece to make their picture complete.



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

- Bring in some puzzles.

- Puzzles



CIRCLE TIME

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

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Simple puzzle
- Puzzle piece from a different puzzle



WHAT'S MISSING?

- Print one set of the What's Missing? picture cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- What's Missing? picture cards



BIBLE PICTURE PUZZLE

- Print and cut out one Bible Picture puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student (preferably on cardstock).
- Withhold the same piece from each set. Put the remaining pieces into envelopes.

- Bible Picture puzzle for each student
- Envelopes
- Withheld puzzle pieces



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Study these background passages as you begin to prepare for this lesson: John 14:25–26, 21:24–25; Revelation 22:18–19.

The Old Testament closed with a warning of judgment (Malachi 2:2) and the promise of a Messiah (Malachi 4:2). And then waiting. Four hundred years of silence from God. Silence until the fulfillment of the greatest event in history—the coming of the Messiah.

The New Testament—reflecting the fulfillment of the promised Messiah through Jesus Christ—was written primarily by the apostles. We find that Jesus empowered the apostles through the Holy Spirit to recall, write, and interpret the life, words, and deeds of Jesus. Jesus said in John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” Jesus again promised His apostles a special revelation of truth through the Holy Spirit in John 16:13: “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

The Apostle John verifies himself as an eyewitness to the events he wrote about: “This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true” (John 21:24). And God officially warns against tampering with Scripture—admonishing that no words be added to or taken from this sacred book (Revelation 22:18–19). We can be confident that the writings of those empowered by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are inspired, inerrant, and infallible.

As the New Testament letters began to be gathered and read throughout the church, we find evidence that they were already being included and described as “Scripture,” including them as part of the established Old Testament canon. The Apostle Peter makes such a claim about Paul’s writings in 2 Peter 3:15–16 when he puts Paul’s epistles in the same category as the “rest of the Scriptures.”

We can rest assured that the New Testament canon has now completed the Word of God. We are reminded of this truth through biblical, historical, and archaeological findings. Not only that, we know it is God’s Word because as we read it we hear God’s

voice throughout every book—and as children of God we never tire of it. It is the Word of our Creator God—revealing the divine power that allows us everything needed to live a life of godliness through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord (2 Peter 1:3).

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

In His divine providence, God, not man, has determined through the Holy Spirit the books that make up the Bible. The early church, shortly after Christ’s death and Resurrection, had no discussion about what made a book equal to the Old Testament Scriptures. It was universally accepted that if a letter came from Peter or Paul, it was deemed Scripture.

However, it wasn’t long before people began to add their own letters, thoughts, ideas, and gospels—desiring to fill in the gaps with what they believed should be included. Because of this, during the first 200 years of church history, certain questions were adopted to serve as the litmus test for the books added to the Bible. All of the books of the Bible regarded as Scripture fulfill these requirements.

- Was the book or letter written by an apostle or under the direction of an apostle?
- Did the writing resound with the truth of God? Did it speak with the voice of authority as the Word of God and not the words of men?
- Were these writings used from the earliest of times? Attempts to include other writings from much later dates have been made. They have been rejected because the material is too new to have been apostolic.
- Did most churches accept these writings as the New Testament canon? Before the middle of the first century, 20 of the 27 books of the New Testament were universally accepted. And only a few churches questioned the other books.
- Did the writings conform to what the church taught? Because there was general agreement as to what the Christian message actually was, this question ruled out false teachings attempting to taint the truth.

Still today we see how people attack the authenticity and reliability of the Scriptures. We must be on our guard against such attacks—and confidently turn to the Word of God to weigh the truth of any claim.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Bible is increasingly regarded as not relevant due to the apathy of our culture toward things of God and the authority of His Word. Consequently, we hear very little about the history of the Bible. As we take a quick look at the books of the New Testament below, keep in mind that these books stood the litmus test based on the questions mentioned above as they were included in the canon of the New Testament.

The Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John provide accounts of Jesus’s life, death, and Resurrection during His three-year ministry. Matthew, Mark, and Luke were written between AD 55–68; John was probably written in the 90s.

The book of Acts—an account of the history of the early church and the spread of Christianity after Christ’s Resurrection. Acts was written by Luke in the mid-60s.

The Pauline epistles—Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon are 13 pastoral letters written by Paul as he endeavored to grow Christ’s church in truth and sound doctrine. These letters were written between AD 51 and 65.

The General epistles—Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, and Jude are letters written to believers by five different people. They include doctrinal and practical advice and were sent out to churches. These letters were written from the late-40s (James’s letter) to the 90s (John’s letters).

Most of the New Testament books were added to

the Old Testament Scriptures by the early church and were considered the complete inspired canon around 150 AD—this is called the Muratorian canon. However, due to false teachers and attempts to change this compilation, other Councils—general meetings of the Christian church—met to eliminate the confusion and bring unity to the church. The Council of Carthage in 397 finally affirmed publicly that the 66 books we have today were the divinely inspired Word of God—not to be added to or taken from (Proverbs 30:5–6).

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



BEFORE THE THRONE

Father, thank you for giving us your complete and accurate Word to study. Please help me to cherish it, appreciate it, and continue to grow in my commitment to it. Help me recognize any effort I may have made to add to your Word and give me discernment to evaluate the many false teachings today for what they are—attacks on your truth as revealed in your Word. Dear Lord, I pray you will move in the hearts of the children I will see this week to come to love your Word, look to it alone for guidance, and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ our only Savior through it.



COME ON IN

As children arrive...

- They will work together to assemble the puzzles you have brought in or have in the classroom. Tell the children that when all of the pieces are put together, the puzzle forms a complete picture.

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, a simple puzzle, an extra puzzle piece (from another puzzle), 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 Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God we love Him.

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.

➤ 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.

I'll start. Dear God, you are always worthy of our praise and love. Today I praise you for . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

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

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!*
- ? **Did you enjoy playing with puzzles when you came in today?** *Let the children answer.*

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

I love playing with puzzles. My favorite thing about puzzles is putting the last piece in and seeing the finished picture! *As you speak, put a simple puzzle together. Show the students the finished puzzle.*

- ? **But what if a piece was missing?** *Take out a piece. Would I still be finished with my puzzle?* *No.*

The puzzle is missing a piece; it is incomplete!

- ? **Would the puzzle be complete if I put a piece in from another puzzle?** *Try to put a different puzzle piece in the empty space.* *No.*

- ? **Why not?** *Let the children answer.*

The piece won't fit and it doesn't match our picture. It is still incomplete.

We need every piece to make it complete. *Put in the proper last piece.*

There. Now our puzzle is complete and makes a perfect picture!

Just like this puzzle, God's Word is complete. If we were to take out a part of God's Word, like King Jehoiakim did when he cut out pieces and threw them in the fire, we would not have God's full Word. *Refer to the Lesson 4 Flip Chart image.*

Revelation 22:18–19

The Bible has something to say about this. I am going to read this to you. It talks about doing something to God's Word. Listen carefully. *Read Revelation 22:18–19 emphasizing "if anyone adds to these things" and "if anyone takes away from the words of the book."*

- ? **What is the Bible talking about here? People who do what?** *Add to or take away from God's Word.*

That's right. God says He will punish anyone who tries to add to His Word or take something away. Remember, God's Word is all true. And it can't be destroyed. God has told us that His Word can't be changed either because God's Word is complete! God's Word is the Bible. *Hold up your Bible as you discuss this.*

? Do you ever get punished? Do you enjoy being punished? *Yes. No.*

? Why do you think God would punish people who take from and add to His words? *Let the children answer.*

God loves His Word and everything He says is true. He has given us His words so we may know Him. Everything in the Bible is good and helpful to us and God wants us to know what He has to say! God's Word is complete—He doesn't want anyone to add to His Word or take away from it.

What if someone took just one verse out of the Bible? *Take a piece out of the puzzle.* We would be missing something God wants us to know.

? What if someone added a verse to God's Word? *Put a piece from another puzzle in the empty spot. Allow answers.*

Just like how this piece of the puzzle doesn't fit, if someone tried to add to God's Word it wouldn't be right. God's Word is final and complete. Nothing should be added and nothing should be taken away.

I want to read another verse in God's Word. It is in Proverbs. It's a warning from God. Tell me what He is warning us about when I finish reading. *Find Proverbs and show the children. Read Proverbs 30:6 to them emphasizing "do not add to His words."*

Proverbs 30:6

? What did this say? We shouldn't do what? *Add to God's words.*

That's right. This says if we add to His Word, we will be punished. Anyone who adds to God's Word is a liar! That is serious!

? I want to read another verse to you. It is another warning from God about His Word! This is from the book of Deuteronomy. Can you say that? *Repeat the name while you are finding Deuteronomy 4:2. Show them where Deuteronomy is in your Bible. Read the verse emphasizing "add to the word" and "take from it."*

Deuteronomy 4:2

? What is God warning us about? Did you hear it? *Do not add to His Word or take away from it.*

Another warning! I think God is serious about this. God's Word is complete. And He does not want anyone to add to His Word or take away from it.

? There are two big sections in the Bible. Do you know what they are? *Allow for answers.*

They are the Old Testament and the New Testament. I want you to take a look at this. *Show them the sections in your Bible.* The Old Testament was written before Jesus was born. It is older! The New Testament was written after Jesus was born and is about Jesus. It is newer. The Old Testament and the

New Testament make up the whole Bible. *Show them the Old Testament and the New Testament.*

All of this Bible, all of it, is true because it is God's Word and God never lies! We know that God protects His Word and that His Word will last forever. *Refer to the Lesson 4 Flip Chart page.*

And today we have read that God does not want anyone to change His Word. His Word—the Bible—is complete. No one can add to it or take anything away from it, right? *Refer to the Lesson 5 Flip Chart page.*

► Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning.

SONG

Today we are going to sing a new song. It tells us God's Word is complete. It is very easy and fun! *Sing "God's Complete Word."*

And let's sing the song that tells us God's Word is perfect! *Sing "God's Word is Perfect." Lyrics to these songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.*

? Great! Singing to our Holy God is wonderful. Let's sing the Memory Verse song. Who knows what our memory verse is? *Allow for answers. Proverbs 30:5. Turn to the Memory Verse page of the Flip Chart. Sing the "Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse" song.*

Now let's go back to the table and play a game.



What's Missing?

MATERIALS

- One set of the What's Missing? picture cards
- Bible

INSTRUCTIONS

Hold up the What's Missing? cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Ask the children what is missing? Allow them to answer.

Between holding up each card, hold up the Bible. Ask, "What's missing?" The children should shout together "Nothing! God's Word is complete!"

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God's Word is complete. It is not missing anything!

? What happens to people who take from God's Word? *They will be punished.*



Bible Picture Puzzle

We are going to put a puzzle together to see a complete picture.

Pass out the missing pieces so children can complete their puzzles. If time allows, let them color the puzzle pieces.

MATERIALS

- One set of the Bible Picture puzzle pieces with one piece missing for each student—on cardstock
- crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out one set of Bible Picture puzzle pieces with the same piece withheld to each student. As students put their puzzles together they will discover that a piece is missing.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Every word from God is for our good. The Bible is complete and without it we don't get a complete picture. We need the Bible to learn about Jesus, God, sin, holiness, and how Jesus died to save us! The Bible is an amazing book.



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 can sing the Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse song again.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God's Word is complete. The Old Testament and the New Testament make up the whole Bible. It is all God's Word. It is all true. God warned us not to add to His Word or take away from His Word. Anyone who does that will face God's punishment someday.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

God's Word is true. It is the foundation for all of our lives. Every word in the Bible is true.

? Should we ever try to change God's Word so it says what we want it to say? *No.*

God's Word is complete and will last forever. You can be sure of that. No one can add anything to His Word or take anything from it. No one can change it.

God's Word is true even if no one believes it. Even if our friends don't believe the Bible, it is still true. God does not lie!

We will end our time by praying to God.

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



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for sending the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to help us understand God's Word.
- Praise God for giving us His complete Word.
- Pray that the children will one day love the Bible and the truth about Jesus it teaches.

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'S WORD IS PERFECT

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

God's Word is perfect. *(Are you sleeping?)*
Put your hands together and open them up like a book.

God's Word is pu-re. *(Are you sleeping?)*
Put your hands together and open them up like a book.

Yes it is! *(Brother John.)*
Nod your head and point a finger out in front of you.

Yes it is! *(Brother John.)*
Nod your head and point a finger out in front of you.

It he-elps us to know Him. *(Morning bells are ringing!)*
Tap pointer finger on the side of your head.

It he-elps us to love Him. *(Morning bells are ringing!)*
Form an X with your arms at your chest.

Yes it does! *(Ding, ding, dong.)*
Nod your head and point a finger out in front of you.

Yes it does! *(Ding, ding, dong.)*
Nod your head and point a finger out in front of you.

PROVERBS 30:5 MEMORY VERSE

(To the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush")

Proverbs 30:5! *(Shout!)*

Every word of God is pure,
(Here we go round the mulberry bush,)
Stand up when saying "God is pure."

God is pure, *(The mulberry bush,)*
Sit down when saying "God is pure."

God is pure. *(The mulberry bush.)*
Stand up when saying "God is pure."

He is a shield to those who put,
(Here we go round the mulberry bush,)
Put your arm out in front of your body like a hook.

Who put their trust in Him.
(So early in the morning,)
Point finger up.

Proverbs 30:5! *(Shout!)*

GOD'S COMPLETE WORD

(To the tune of "Shoo Fly Don't Bother Me")

God's Word is all complete.
(Shoo fly don't bother me!)
Fold hands together and open like a book.

God's Word is what I need.
(Shoo fly don't bother me!)

God's Word is all complete.
(Shoo fly don't bother me!)
Fold hands together and open like a book.

Yes, it is right in word and deed.
(For I be-long to some-bod-y!)
Nod your head.

