



# 6

# Don't Change God's Word

## Key Theme

- The Bible is the inspired Word of God

## Key Passages

- Proverbs 30:5–6; Psalm 119:160

## Lesson Focus

- God's Word can't be changed.



## 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**—The Bible is the infallible Word of God, and is our final authority. We must believe that God's words are true and contain no error. God has warned of serious punishment for those who presume to make changes to His Word.

**Song**—Children will use hand motions while singing God's Complete Word and the Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse song.



### Activity 1: Don't Change a Thing

Students will do exactly what the teacher does without changing a thing.



### Activity 2: Whisper the Truth

Students will whisper a truth about God around the circle to each other. Will it change? It may change, but we CAN'T change God's Word.



### 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



### FOR THE TEACHER

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



### COME ON IN

- Set puzzles out before class begins.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Student Take Home Sheets



### CIRCLE TIME

- Bring a stuffed animal for prayer time.
- Print one Stone Cut-out template for your use as you teach the lesson (or bring in a large stone).
- Write part of Proverbs 30:5 on the stone. (See lesson for details.)
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Puzzles

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stone Cut-out or a real large stone for illustration with part of Proverbs 30:5 written on it
- Permanent marker
- Eraser
- Hand wipe



### DON'T CHANGE A THING

- Print one Don't Change a Thing action suggestions from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use as you play the game.

- Don't Change a Thing action suggestions



### WHISPER THE TRUTH

- Print one Whisper the Truth statement sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use as you play the game.

- Whisper the Truth statement sheet



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field . . . and he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree in the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1). Just as Satan cast doubt on God's Word in the very beginning, the Word of God has been questioned, denied, changed, added to, and misinterpreted throughout history.

As you prepare to teach this week, meditate on the passages below. We are called to search the Scriptures to discover the truth—to be Bereans (see Acts 17:10–11). Your confidence and trust in God's Word as your final authority will instill the same confidence in the children you teach.

Deuteronomy 4:2—"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."

Deuteronomy 12:32—"Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it."

Deuteronomy 18:20–22—"But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?'—when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."

Galatians 1:6–9—"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."

And as we reach the Bible's final chapter, we are given God's assurance that it is complete as He warns that it must not be changed in any way.

Revelation 22:18–19—"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

## APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Tolerance—it's a word we often hear in this culture. The attitude today is to be open-minded, accept everyone, be careful not to offend anyone, and accept all religions as equally true. If it works for you—it works! This is not an accurate understanding of tolerance, but a twisted view that comes from the post-modern mindset where people can construct their own truth. Real tolerance involves understanding the positions of others, knowing why you disagree, living alongside them, and confronting their false ideas with biblical truth. If we are not convinced that someone is wrong, why would we need to tolerate their different views?

As Christians, we are called to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who was not tolerant of false religions, but stood on the truth of God's Word (e.g., John 3:34, 14:6, 17:3).

Is the Bible the only Word of God? Be assured, God's Word needs no proof. God begins with the presumption that He exists (Genesis 1:1) and follows up with many texts that authenticate His Word (e.g., Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 119:160; John 17:17). He does, however, warn us against succumbing to empty deceit, traditions of men, and the principles of the world that are not of Christ (Colossians 2:8).

With this in mind let's take a look at how some false religions blatantly deny the truth of God and the work of Jesus Christ.

We need to be very aware that there are many false teachings in the world today. And only God's Word provides us with the information we need to reveal them for what they are. The Bible is the only Word of God.

### View of Origins

#### Bible

God created all things in six, 24-hour days, about 6,000 years ago. All creatures, including man, were kinds. Sin, disease created after their own kind, sickness, and death were not part of this creation; they came as a result of the Fall.

#### Islam

The Koran teaches that Allah created all things, but it contradicts itself on the number of days. It also teaches that the first man and woman were created in Paradise but were later banished to earth after the fall into sin.

#### Mormonism

God created man physically after He created the earth. However, we had a pre-earth life, in which we existed as God's "spirit children."

#### Jehovah's Witnesses

The Watchtower Society teaches that each of the six creative days of God in Genesis 1 was 7,000 years long, and that the universe is billions of years old.

	Bible	Islam	Mormonism	Jehovah's Witnesses
View of Christ	Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, who became man to live a perfect life, to be mankind's substitute on the Cross, and to rise from the dead, defeating death.	Allah (God) created Jesus and appointed him to be a messenger to the Jewish people. The Koran does teach that Jesus was sinless but He was not God, and He did not die on the Cross.	Jesus is the spirit-brother to every man, and even Satan. Jesus is one of an endless number of gods and is a being separate from the Heavenly Father.	Jesus is the Son of God, but is a created being. Christ existed in a pre-human state as the Archangel Michael. Jesus died at his crucifixion and was resurrected as an invisible, non-material, glorious, spirit creature.
Sin and Salvation	Every person has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ and His redeeming work on the Cross.	Salvation is possible after adherence to the Koran, as well as performing the five pillars of the Islamic faith. But even then, salvation is not guaranteed.	Sin was part of God's plan because without it mankind could not progress to become like God, know joy, or have children. Salvation is a combination of faith and works.	Human nature is universally sinful, because all humans inherit the original sin of Adam and Eve. Salvation comes by placing faith in Christ's sacrifice, being baptized as a Witness, and doing good works.
Life After Death	Mankind will live forever either in heaven or in hell. The only way for us to get to heaven is through faith in Christ.	Allah sends both righteous and unrighteous to hell unless they die in a holy war. But if their good works outweigh their bad, they should be admitted into Paradise. Paradise is only guaranteed to those who die in jihad (holy war).	Even after death, everyone has an opportunity to respond to the gospel. Heaven has three levels, and those who attain the highest level become gods, ruling and populating their own world.	There is no eternal hell; this is a false concept created by Satan to turn people away from belief in Jehovah. Unbelievers cease to exist at death (annihilation), while believers remain in death until the resurrection. Only 144,000 will go to heaven, while the rest will live in an earthly paradise.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

God presumed His existence and felt no need to prove it. His Word commences with, "In the beginning, God . . ." (Genesis 1:1), and that is how our history started.

Believers who have gone before us have demonstrated how much the Bible meant to them. They were willing to go to great sacrifice in order to spread the Word throughout the world in common languages because they knew it to be the only Word of God.

Consider John Wycliffe who was born in England in 1324. In those days, church leaders purposely kept ordinary people from the Scriptures. John Wycliffe declared that God's Word is for all people and he began a quest to produce the Scriptures in common English—handwritten from the Latin translations then available. These translations had to be read in secret and Wycliffe suffered persecution all of his life for his efforts.

John Huss, born in 1369 in Bohemia, was another of God's servants. John Huss was intent on maintaining the Word of God as the authority over Christian doctrine, and he spoke boldly and courageously against the compromises he saw in the church such as altering the Lord's Supper and selling indulgences. As a result, he was burned at the stake—giving his life so the Word of God might remain the pure standard for the Church.

German believers experienced similar persecution. When Martin Luther was born in 1483, the Bible was a very rare book and practically unknown. As he grew, so did his love for the Bible, God, and truth. Luther was aware that there were grave and unbiblical injustices in the church and God stirred his soul to action. On

October 31, 1517, he posted his complaints against the church authorities—jeopardizing his life to defend the Bible as the only Word of God.

At the time Luther was translating God's Word into German, God also stirred William Tyndale (1492–1536) to desire that the Word be available in the English language. This was a terrible time in England and Tyndale's spirit, boldness, and faithfulness to God's Word put his life in constant danger. Yet he pursued his God-given vocation and eventually did complete a translation of the New Testament—the first translation into English from the original Greek. Ultimately, God's will was for Tyndale's life to end in tragic death.

These are but a few of the saints who have gone before us to preserve, protect, and provide the Word of God. It is the only Word of God—and around the world people are still giving up their lives to honor its integrity.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Father, thank you for preserving your Word and allowing it to be so available. Please keep me alert to those people around me who have been led astray by false teachings and guard me against their influence. Guide me to be ready always to give an answer for the hope and knowledge that I have in Christ Jesus as I have learned from your Word. Speak through me to guide my students to that same hope.



## 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, stone cut-out or real, large stone, permanent marker, eraser, hand wipe, Don't Change a Thing action suggestions, Flip Chart, 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 Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way.*

**Today let's say prayers of confession—and tell God we are sorry for our sins.**

*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.*

**I'll start. Dear God, ... (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.

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

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.*

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

- ? 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!  
People have a lot to say about the Bible and not all of it is true.
- ? Where do we look to find the truth? The Bible.  
I am going to say some things about God, Jesus, and the Bible, and I want you to tell me if it is true or not true.
- ? God created the heavens and the earth. True!  
Yes! God tells us He created everything in just six days!
- ? The Bible tells us a LITTLE, but not ALL of what we need to know. Not true!  
No! The Bible tells us ALL we need to know!
- ? Jesus is God's only Son. True!  
Yes! And Jesus is the only way to God and heaven.
- ? All people love God. Not true!  
No. All people do not love God. And some people say they love God, but they don't even know who God is!
- ? How do you know what is true and what is not true? How do we find out about God? Hold up your Bible to give them a hint. By reading the Bible.  
We are able to know the truth and know God better from what we learn in the Bible!
- ? Can anyone say the memory verse that we have been working on these past few weeks? Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse page. Have someone or the group recite Proverbs 30:5.  
Great job!
- ? How many words of God are true? Every word.  
Yes! Everything God says is always true!
- ? Now listen as I read Proverbs 30:6. God tells us NOT to do something to His Word. Tell me what that is. Read Proverbs 30:6 out loud to the children emphasizing "do NOT add to His words."
- ? What does God tell us NOT to do? Add to His words. Refer to the Flip Chart.  
We can't add anything to God's Word. God's Word can't be changed!

## Proverbs 30:5

## Proverbs 30:6

- ? What does God think of people who try to add to His Word? Reread the verse emphasizing "you will be found a liar!" They are liars.

That's right. God loves His Word and He wants it to stay exactly the way He gave it to us. We can't change His Word. He will punish those who change His Word. He calls people who try to change His Word liars! He doesn't want us to add to it or try to cut things out of it! We can't change it!

Let me read another verse from the Holy Bible. Open your Bible to Psalm 119:160. Read this verse emphasizing "entirety is truth."

Psalm 119:160

Again, God is telling us that ALL of His Word is true and we can't change any part of it.

- ? How long does this verse say God's Word will last? Reread Psalm 119:160 emphasizing "forever." Forever.

God's Word will last forever. We can't add to God's Word or take anything away from it. God's Word can't be changed! It is all true. And it will last forever!

We could say that God's Word is set in stone! Look at this stone. It has part of the memory verse on it. I am going to write the rest of the verse on here. Hold up your stone cut-out or a real stone with part of Proverbs 30:5 written on it. Use a permanent marker to finish writing the verse.

Now the verse is "set in stone." That means it cannot be changed. I cannot erase the verse from this stone. Try to erase the verse with an eraser.

I can't wipe it off with a cloth. Use the hand wipe to try to wipe the verse off of the rock.

It cannot be changed! These words will stay on this rock forever! God's true Word will always be the same.

- ? How many words of God are true? Every word.

That's right. All of God's Word is true. Hold up your Bible.

- ? How long will God's true words last? Forever.

That's right! We can believe God and what He says all the time!

- ? What does God call someone who adds to His Word? A liar.

Yes, they are liars because they are trying to add things to God's Word. And God says that His Word can't be changed. God's Word is final and complete! His words are true and last forever.

- ? Should we try to add to God's Word? No!

- ? Can God's Word be changed? No!

No! We can't change God's Word. It is complete!

► You might want to give the children an opportunity to "change" the words on the stone by wiping some of the words off.

## SONG

Turn to the Flip Chart Song page. We know God's Word is complete and can't be changed! Let's sing about that. Sing "God's Complete Word."

Great! Now let's sing the "Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse" song again. God's Word can't be changed, it is complete, and it is good to hide it in our hearts so we really know what it says. *Lyrics to both songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide and on the Song Page of the Flip Chart.*

Okay. We are going to stay right here and play a game called "Don't Change a Thing!"



## Don't Change a Thing

### MATERIALS

- Don't Change a Thing action suggestions

### INSTRUCTIONS

Have the children follow exactly what you do. You can do this like a game of follow the leader. You may want to assign some of the children to lead once they get the hang of it.

We are going to play a fun game now. Everyone listen carefully! This is like follow the leader. I am going to do something and I want you to do exactly what I do! When

I snap my fingers, you snap your fingers!  
When I nod my head, you nod your head!  
Are you ready?

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God says very clearly that His Word can't be changed. You couldn't change my actions in the game and we can't change God's Word! God tells us that anyone who adds to His words or takes something out of the Bible will be punished. God's Word, and His Word alone, has the truth we need.



## Whisper the Truth

### MATERIALS

- Whisper the Truth statement sheet

### INSTRUCTIONS

As time allows, you can play Whisper the Truth. Have the children whisper one of the truth statements provided on the sheet to each other—not out loud! See if the truth is changed by the time the last child receives and repeats it. Applaud for them if the truth has not changed. Repeat the fact that God's Word cannot change.

Repeat each statement to the children. Have them all repeat the truth together. Tell them this is what the Bible says and we can't change God's Word. Then move on to the next one.

We are going to play Whisper the Truth. Sit (or stand) in a circle. I will whisper something to one of you and I want you to tell the person next to you what I said. You will go all around the circle. Let's see if the truth is changed by the time we get to the last child! You have to listen carefully so you can repeat it.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We can't change God's Word. The things we whispered to each other are true about God. We have to be careful not to change God's Word by adding something to it or taking something away.



# 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. Sing the song with them.



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

You know we can't change God's Word. He tells us that over and over again. We can't add anything to it or take anything away. It is true just the way it is. Refer to the Flip Chart.

### GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

When you have a question about something, or someone tells you something about God that doesn't sound right, ask someone you trust, your parents, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, what the Bible says about it. God's Word—the Bible is true.

Let's talk to God now!

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



## Group Prayer Time

- Ask God to make the Bible the children's favorite book.
- Ask God to grow them to know what God's truth is.
- Praise God for giving us His true Word.

**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 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.*

## 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!)**