

CHAPTER 1

THE BIBLE: THE BOOK GOD WROTE

Refer to **pg 7** in the workbook

Summary

This chapter emphasizes the uniqueness of the Bible. It is God-breathed and thus God communicates to us his nature and his will. Our part is to read the Bible often and obey what it says to us. The result of that will be evident in the transformation of our everyday lives.

The practical portion introduces the learners to the practice of the Quiet Time. This session focuses on studying the Bible. The memorization of Scriptures is encouraged.

To get ready

1. Different books e.g. a Bible (definitely you must have a copy), a school textbook, a novel, a book of poetry, a revision book, a comic.
2. Extra pens / pencils
3. Bible reading guides e.g. Bible Bytes (Scripture Union)
4. Photocopies of material on pages 13 and 14 of leader's guide
5. Optional - photocopy of teaching aid on page 15 of guide
6. Memory verse Psalm 119:105

Teacher's Guide

Let the learners look at all of the books you brought.

Initially put the Bible aside. Help them to answer the questions they have in the workbook from what they discovered in the load of books you brought.

Then let them look at the Bible. Bring enough Bibles to allow everyone to have one to look at.

Now ask whether they can discover any difference between the Bible and the other books. Let them give their opinions.

Encourage them to be very observant and to write into the 'placard' what they have discovered. Some responses may be 'funny names of chapters' or 'numbers beside the words'.

Refer to **pg 8** in the workbook

1. Prepare strips of 'points about the specialness of the Bible' by photocopying the page given at the end of this chapter (pages 13 and 14) onto 2-sheet card.

Show the learners the pile of prepared strips and let them draw out from the pile, one by one, and read them out to the whole group. You may want to discuss and illustrate each point as they are raised.

The Bible is made up of 66 books.

Let the learners read out some of the names of the books.

There are different types of writings in the Bible.

There is poetry, history, letters and prophecy. Open the Bible to the relevant books to illustrate.

The Bible was written by over 40 different people at different times.

Ask the learners some of the names of the writers. You can tell them some of the other writers. Also give some idea of the time range of the writings.

The writers come from very different backgrounds.

They were prophets, kings, fishermen etc.

The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years.

The last book, Revelation, was probably written around AD 90.

Throughout the Bible there is one common thought of God sending Jesus to save us from our sins.

God's redemptive purpose can be traced in the ways He has been dealing with Israel right from the Old Testament times.

Many nations and people have tried to destroy the Bible totally but the Bible has managed to survive.

You can mention examples like China during the Cultural Revolution or the communist regime in USSR.

Allow some time for them to fill up the spaces in their workbook with the information in the strips. Let them choose 5 of the pieces of information that hit them the most!

Refer to **pg 9** in the workbook

Ask the learners whether they know why the Bible is so special. Listen to some of their responses and then let them read 2 Timothy 3:16a (NIV). If there are different versions used, explain the difference but point to the NIV here.

2 Tim 3:16a
All Scripture is
God-breathed

Pinpoint the word - '**God-breathed**'. Write this in the box.

Ask a few leading questions like -

Do you have to breathe out when you talk?

Where does your breath come from?

Where do you think God's breath comes from?

Emphasize the point that the Bible is God's Word and it comes from God Himself.

2. Ask the learners - 'Do you think the writers may get the message wrong?'

So how did God get the message through properly?

Let the learners look up 2 Peter 1:21 and read it out loud. Fill the blocks with the words '**HOLY SPIRIT**'.

2 Peter 1:21

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

3. Let the learners do the short quiz below. Some help may be needed from you depending on their backgrounds.

1. The word 'Bible' comes from the Greek word '*Biblion*' which means '**books**'.

2. The Bible has two parts - the **Old** Testament and the **New** Testament.

3. The word 'testament' means '**contract**'.

(You may want to bring in the word 'covenant' if the learners can understand it.)

4. There are **39** books in the first part of the Bible and **27** books in the second part, giving a total of 66 books in the Bible.

5. The Bible was first written in the languages **Hebrew** and **Greek**.

Refer to **pg 10** in the workbook

If they find something interesting in the discussion, they can write something down in the scroll.

Get a sample of their responses first.

4. Now the learners are to use the letter tiles to fill in the blank spaces and so find two sentences that tell them what we can learn from God's Word, the Bible.

See the answers below.

Refer to **pg 11** in the workbook

Finally the sentences should read

THE BIBLE GIVES A RIGHT DESCRIPTION OF WHO GOD IS.

THE BIBLE TELLS US HOW GOD WANTS US TO BEHAVE BEFORE HIM AND WITH EACH OTHER.

Explain that God reveals himself.

You may want to go further and say how God reveals himself. He does so by the names he calls himself and the ways he acts in the Bible.

5. Further God tells us how our lives should be lived. The learners may have heard that the Bible is like a manual for our lives much as a TV manual helps us to use the TV properly.

Each letter in each column of this fallen letters puzzle must be placed into one of the boxed spaces of the same column.

Some help may be needed. Some letters are given. The final answer should read as follows:

READ THE BIBLE OFTEN AND OBEY WHAT IT SAYS.

R	E	A	D		T	H	E	
		B	I	B	L	E		
O	F	T	E	N		A	N	D
O	B	E	Y		W	H	A	T
	I	T		S	A	Y	S	

Refer to **pg 12** in the workbook

6. If God has said something and He is our Creator, should not we be interested to hear what He says? And should not we be careful to do what He wants?

Let the learners look up the different verses in their Bibles and then read out the verse and the answers one by one for everyone else's benefit.

Luke 8:15 **But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.**

Deut 17:19 **It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees.**

Refer to **pg 13** in the workbook

PS 119:11 I have **hidden** your word in my heart
that I might not **sin** against you.

You may want to explain 'hidden in my heart' as 'memorize'.

Josh 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth;
meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do
everything written in it. Then you will be **prosperous** and
successful.

Elaborate on the meaning of 'meditate' to differentiate it from the
concept in other religious thought. Emphasize meditation as
focussing and thinking deeply about the Scriptures, running it
through our minds again and again.

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had devoted himself to the **study** and observance of
the Law of the LORD, and to **teaching** its decrees and laws in Israel.

7. Encourage the learners to fill up the spaces on the ferris wheel
from what they have read in the Scripture passages.

hear
read
hidden in heart (memorize)
meditate (think about it again and again)
study

Refer to **pg 14** in the workbook

And on this page, write out the results from the same verses above.

Produce a crop (changing the lives of others)

Revere God (has great respect and admiration)

The word 'revere' as applied to God has even the idea of awe. This is God we are trying to fathom, not another human being. We, His creatures, cannot grasp the Creator.

Not sin against God

Prosperous

Successful (by God's standard of success)

'Success' must be emphasized as 'success following God's standard and not our own'. 'Prosperous' must be likewise explained.

Teach the Word

Refer to **pg 15** in the workbook

1. Let the learners look up Psalm 119:105 themselves and then write it down in the scroll.

Psalm 119:105
Your word is a lamp to
my feet
and a light for my path.

Right from the beginning, encourage the good habit of regular daily Bible reading (and memorizing). You may at this point recommend a Bible reading guide.

2. A good one that is 'bite-sized' and local is **Bible Bytes** produced by Scripture Union. Get some copies for the learners. Show them some pages. Go through a day's reading with them. Even better give each learner a copy as a 'door' gift for his or her attendance. Ask your local church to sponsor.

Scripture Union (SU) has other materials for different ages. You may want to check this out with your local Christian bookstore or your local church may have a SU contact person. If you need to contact SU directly, the address is

Scripture Union,
386, Jalan 5/59,
46000 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan

Tel: 03-7782 9592
Fax: 03-7783 1663
e-mail: sufes@po.jaring.my

What is the Quiet Time? Ask for suggestions. Fill in the blanks with the letter tiles given.

Refer to **pg 16** in the workbook

The answer should read

THE DAILY TIME SET ASIDE TO SPEND WITH GOD IN PRAYER, WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY.

Take time to explain the dynamics of a personal Quiet Time with God daily. Go through with them the Scripture Union guide as noted below. Write some key words like PRAY, READ, MEDITATE, RESPOND on the board or show some flash cards so that the learners can take down some notes for their future reference. These key words are available in flash cards at the end of the chapter (page 15).

Pray

Consciously prepare yourself to meet with God by opening your heart and life to His presence and expecting to receive from Him. Pray Psalm 119:18 - 'Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law (Bible).'

Read

Read the Bible passage carefully, listening to what God is saying to you through the passage.

Meditate

Think about the meaning of the passage before reading any notes or comments given in your guide. Ask yourself the following questions:

What is this passage saying?

What does it teach me about God?

Is there a promise or a command, a warning or example to take special notice of?

Respond

Use what you have learned for prayer and worship. More will be taught about worship and prayer the next chapter. Decide how you can obey God based on what you have learned. Think about how you can share what you have just learned with others in word and action.

2. Give everyone a copy of the guide book (Bible Bytes) and then go through one practice session with them.

Refer to **pg 17** in the workbook

Encourage the learners to write things down. This is an important exercise. If God is saying something, it is indeed important to write it down so that we do not forget.

3. Pray for the learners and then have a time of covenant signing. Assign accountability partners for everyone. Remember to assign only boys to boys and girls to girls. If there is an odd one out, let one group be a threesome.

Let them write each other's name onto the 'covenant' scroll. Then as teacher, you sign as witness for everyone. Do not forget to follow up on this the following week.

Write down the names of all your learners so that you can pray for them daily.

There will a Bible verse for each week of the course. Distribute the memory verse cards for this lesson and remind them that they will be required to recite it the next lesson. You can find the template of the cards for every lesson in this course at the end of this chapter (pages 16 and 17).

Refer to **pg 18** in the workbook

Encourage the learners to fill up the summary statements on their own.

TODAY I LEARNED ...

- 1 that the Bible is God-b **reathed**
- 2 that the H **oly** S **pirit** moves people to write the Scripture
- 3 that the Bible gives a right d **escription** of God and His ways
- 4 that the Bible teaches us how to b **ehave** before God and among ourselves
- 5 that God wants us to read the Bible o **ften** and o **bey** what the Bible teaches
- 6 that we should r **ead** , s **tudy**, m **emorize** the Bible and m **editate** on God's Word
- 7 that knowing the Bible will make us s **uccessful** and p **rosperous** according to God's standard
- 8 that with God's Word in us we will not s **in** against God
- 9 that reading the Bible will enable us to r **evere** God more
- 10 that God's Word in us is p **roductive**

AND I LEARNED HOW

to start having a daily Q **uiet** T **ime**

See page 2 above

**The Bible is made up of
66 books.**

**There are different types
of writings in the Bible.**

**The Bible was written by
over 40 different people at
different times.**

**Throughout the Bible there
is one common thought of
God sending Jesus to save
us from our sins.**

See page 2 above - continued

The writers come from very different backgrounds.

The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years.

Many nations and people have tried to destroy the Bible totally but the Bible has managed to survive.

See pg 10 above

PRAY

READ

MEDITATE

RESPOND

THE BIBLE: THE BOOK GOD WROTE

Bible memory verses for the course

Chapter 1

The Bible: The Book God Wrote

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.
Psalm 119:115 (NIV)

Chapter 2

God: Our Heavenly Father

The Spirit himself testifies with our
spirit that we are God's children.
Romans 8:16 (NIV)

Chapter 3

Jesus: Our Savior and Lord

For there is one God and one
mediator between God and men, the
man Christ Jesus.
1 Timothy 2:5 (NIV)

Chapter 4

Holy Spirit: God Present with Us

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-
control.
Galatians 5:22,23 (NIV)

Chapter 5

Church: The Big Family

Now you are the body of Christ, and
each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

Chapter 6

Baptism: Identifying with Jesus

We were therefore buried with him
through baptism into death in order
that, just as Christ was raised from
the dead through the glory of the
Father, we too may live a new life.
Romans 6:4 (NIV)

Bible memory verses for the course - continued

Chapter 7

**Holy Communion:
Remembering Jesus**

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV)

Chapter 8

Service: Discovering Spiritual Gifts

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Chapter 9

Victory: Equipped to Win

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Galatians 5:16 (NIV)

Chapter 10

Evangelism: Sharing the Good News

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NIV)

Chapter 11

John Wesley: The Impact of his Life

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NIV)

Chapter 12

Being Methodist: A Lifestyle to Follow

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Luke 10:27 (NIV)