

Bible Lesson Sunday School Series St Lukes Wandal

Aim

To increase children's awareness of the Bible, and ability to look up gospel references in particular.

Main Resources

Complete Good News Bibles & large print New Testaments

Common Activities

Encourage the children to bring Bibles of their own for "show & tell" each week. Teachers bring a special bible each week, too.

Make sure all children handle & open a bible each week.

Lesson 1 : Familiarization

Show & tell own bible, ask children to bring theirs next few weeks

Explain about doing work with Bible for month. Teach that Bible is word of God & tells story of God & his people for thousands of years.

Introduce Bible library chart – discuss fact that bible is not just one book, but lots

Count up number books from chart in Old Testament & New, read some of the names

Explain words "testament" & "book". Word testament means covenant or promise – each testament records many of God's promises to us. Briefly, Old Testament promise was that "we will be God's people and he will be our God", and New Testament promise of forgiveness of sins through faith in Christ. Talk about Old T. being story of people of God before Jesus, New T. being story of Jesus & early church.

Find Old T. & New T. in complete bibles from church – check out page numbering, find list of contents in front.

Browse through bible in pairs & look at pictures.

Look up the gospels using list contents; learn to recite name of 4 gospels.

Find & read last week's gospel story, ie, feeding 5,000 in John 6

Fill in missing words of worksheet about Bible from Communion preparation workbook.

Play game to reinforce learnings.

Lesson 2 : Using The New Testament

Show & tell own bible, ask to see children's bibles too.

Reinforce that Bible is Word of God & tells story of God & his people. Revise Old & New Testaments & fact that each testament has separate books.

Introduce Sunday School set of Bibles – the Big Word for Kids. Play spot the differences between these & the bibles from the church they used last week. Emphasize the main difference that

Big Word is just New Testament only. Children browse through these books in pairs (won't take long – there's no pictures).

Have an ordinary children's story book & talk about chapters in books. Books of bible have chapters too. Look in one of gospels to find chapter numbers. Note that all bibles have name of book & chapter number at top of page, for easy finding of passage.

Notice story headings for helpful understand of story.

Introduce verse numbers. (They can be likened to sentence numbers.) Everyone turn to a particular book & chapter and practice finding some specific verses. To read verses 1 to 4 means reading verse 4, too, not stopping when you get to the number 4.

Say together names of 4 gospels. Find & read selected short stories from gospels, eg, Matthew 3 : 13 – 17; Mark 10:13 – 16; Luke 2: 41 – 51; John 15: 12 – 14; John 3:16

Act out readings or play game to emphasize learnings.

Lesson 3 : Comparing Gospel Stories

Show & tell own bible, ask to see children's bibles too.

Reinforce all learnings from previous weeks. Catch up with children not present in previous weeks. (Lesson plan may have to be flexible to allow for this possibility).

Recall names of 4 gospels, also testament, book, chapter, verse.

Show how bible references are normally written, eg, Mark 10:13, and practice reading this reference, ie, "Gospel of Mark, chapter 10, verse 13." Word Gospel means "good news"

Play simple game where 2 or 3 people are asked to leave room, rest of group makes up simple event & chooses people to act out event; children come back in room & watch performance. All but one of these watchers leaves the room again while remaining one tells his/her account of event. Other watchers are called in one at a time to tell account too. Conclude by comparing accounts. Not identical, but all told the story as it was seen. Same with gospel stories – not identical, but all true tellings of story of Jesus.

Using Big Word for Kids, note cross references under story headings for different tellings of same story. Starting with gospel of Mark, compare some different tellings, eg, Mark 2 : 13 – 15 compared with Matthew 9: 9 – 10 (many people had 2 names, Matthew's other name was Levi); Mark 6 : 30 – 44 compared with John 6 : 1- 14 (John didn't see or remember the little boy & Andrew); Mark 7 : 31- 37 (the other gospel writers forgot that one !)

Lesson 4 : Bible Background

Show & tell own bible, ask to see children's bibles too.

Reinforce all learnings from previous weeks & look up some favourite stories, eg, from Luke 15

Explore background of bible times using various books & posters available. Locate bible lands on map of world; compare foods of day with today, also schooling environment; homes & houses; daily life of children; clothes, etc. (There are lots of resources available from Rector for this whole area.)

Children to find a partner & have some free reading time from Bible, or stay with teacher in small group & read selected stories together.