



UNIT 7 | SESSION 3

THE BIBLE HELPS US LIVE FOR GOD

2 TIMOTHY 3

CHRIST CONNECTION:

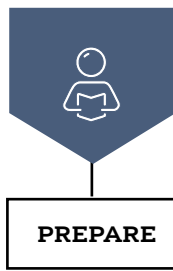
The Bible tells us about God's plan to forgive sinners through His Son, Jesus. Jesus always obeyed God's Word. Like Jesus, we can read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live to give God glory.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

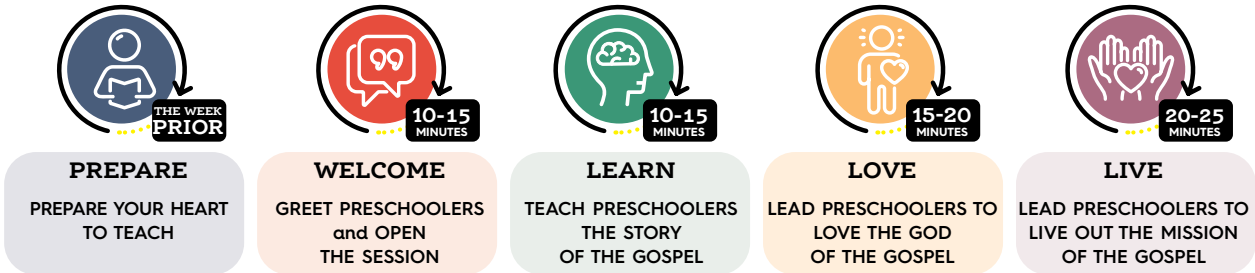
What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word.

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 119:105



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul points out that Scripture is enough for us. It is our source for godliness and our final authority in matters pertaining to doctrine. The confessions of every Protestant denomination affirm the sufficiency of Scripture.

Why does this matter for preschoolers? We need to teach our children that even though the Bible may not mention everything in life, it mentions everything we need to know about God, His plan to save us, and how we can live a holy life to please Him. It is important in a world that has become increasingly hostile to biblical truth that we teach our children the value of reading it and applying it to our lives daily.

What is important for us to remember and for children to know about the Bible?

1. The Bible is how God speaks to us. The words of the Bible are not like any other document on earth. They are the way God chose to tell us what He is like.

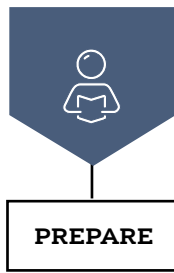
2. The Bible is about God and for us. One common misunderstanding about the Bible is that the Bible is about us. As we are reminded each week in our Christ connection, the Bible is about Jesus, but it is for us. It is how we can understand, apply, and teach others what God is like.

3. The Bible is how we can know how to love God and live for God. God speaks to us through His Word, shows us what He is like, and tells us how life works best and how we can live for Him in the world He has made for us.

Take a moment to thank God for the Bible as you prepare to show your preschoolers the beauty of Christ in the pages of Scripture. Paul told Timothy that all of the Bible is important for us to grow and to know. This is just as true for preschoolers. The question is not what parts of the Bible we should teach preschoolers but how we should teach all of the Bible to them.

TERMS TO KNOW

Sufficiency of Scripture: The Bible is all we need to equip us for a life of faith and service.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



WELCOME

Welcome

- “Your Word (Psalm 119:105)” song

Activity Page

- “Connect the Dots” activity page, 1 per child

Puzzles

- various 12-piece puzzles, 1 per child
- mismatched puzzle pieces, 2-4 pieces per child

Transition

- countdown video (optional)



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- cookbook

Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “The Bible Helps Us Live for God” video (optional)

Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “Your Word (Psalm 119:105)” song
- flashlight

Learn the Big Picture

Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Missions moment

- “Yvette Aarons Poster” printable
- electronic device



LOVE

Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

Pass the Bible

- various Bibles, 1 per child



LIVE

Bible relay

- Bibles, 2
- chairs, 2

Bible buddy bookmarks

- foam bookmarks, 1 per child
- box cutter (adult use only)
- hole punch
- googly eyes, 2 or 3 per child
- chenille stems, 1 or 2 per child

Live for God pictures

- paper strips
- trash can

Secret message

- “Yvette Aarons Poster” printable



WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye-level. Follow your church's security procedures.

1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Connect the Dots" on the activity page.

SAY “ We created a picture of a child and her mom reading a Bible. Do you have a Bible that you can read with someone? A man named Paul wrote letters to his friend Timothy that we can all read in the Bible. God gave us the Bible so we could know what is right and wrong. ”

2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

TRUTH HOP



Instruct children to line up on one side of the room while you stand on the other. Call out true and false statements (i.e. Birds can fly, cows are purple). Children hop toward you if the statement is true but freeze if it is false. Children moving after a false statement must go back to the starting line. Play as time allows.

SAY “ In our game, it was important to know what was true and false. Today we are going to learn how the Bible helps us know what God says is true and good. ”

PUZZLES

Place various puzzles on the table but add extra pieces from another puzzle to each puzzle. Explain that some of the puzzle pieces are wrong; they do not belong to the puzzle.

SAY “ Our puzzles contained some wrong pieces. They did not belong to the puzzles we were putting together. How did you discover which puzzle pieces were wrong? Today we will learn how the Bible helps us know what is right and what is wrong. Listen closely and you will discover how the Bible can give us all wisdom. ”

3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Lead children single file to the Bible study area by calling out true and false statements. When you say something true, children must give a single clap. Gently correct children who clap on a false statement.

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Display a cookbook and open it to a favorite recipe. Explain how this book shows you the right way to make this food. Consider reading the ingredients and steps.

SAY “ I brought a cookbook that has my favorite recipe. If I follow this recipe, I will enjoy my favorite meal. But if I leave out some ingredients or add something strange, the food will not turn out right. I brought in another book from home. [**Hold up your Bible.**] This is my Bible. It contains everything I need to know to live in a way that pleases God. ”

2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at 2 Timothy 3 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY “ I love opening God’s Word and reading what it says because everything in the Bible is true and helps me live my life the way God wants me to live. Today we are going to look at a letter that Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy. The letter is found in the New Testament of the Bible. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

THE BIBLE HELPS US LIVE FOR GOD

“ A man named Paul wrote a letter to his friend Timothy. Paul was a follower of Jesus. He was also a missionary; he traveled to tell other people about Jesus. Timothy had helped Paul, and now Timothy was a church leader.

We can read two of Paul’s letters to Timothy in the Bible. Paul wrote to tell Timothy about living for Jesus and how to help others live for Jesus too.

This is what **Paul wrote**: “**Hard times are coming. Some people will not live for God. They will love themselves and money most of all. They will be proud and unloving. They will disobey their parents. Instead of loving God, they will do whatever they want. Stay away from these people.**”

Paul reminded Timothy of Pharaoh’s magicians who had challenged Moses in Egypt. They were foolish not to believe the truth.

Paul wrote, “You know me well, and you even suffered like I did. Everyone who wants to live for Jesus will face hard times too. **Remember what you have learned and believed. The Word of God is able to give you the wisdom you need to be saved through faith in Jesus.**”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Paul knew that the Bible helps people live for God. He said, **“All Scripture comes from God. It is useful for showing us what is true, teaching us what is right and wrong, and training us how to live like God wants. With the Bible, everyone who follows God can be ready and have everything they need to do every good work.”**

STORYTELLING TIPS

Invite a guest: Enlist a young man from your church to dress in Bible times clothes and tell the story as Timothy, reading Paul’s letter to him. Print the Bible story on a sheet of paper the guest can roll up as a scroll.

Emphasize the Bible: Hold up the Bible each time you say *Bible*, *truth*, *Word of God*, or *Scripture* in the story.

4 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ The Bible tells us about God’s plan to forgive sinners through His Son, Jesus. Jesus always obeyed God’s Word. Like Jesus, we can read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live to give God glory. ”

5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Have you ever received a letter in the mail? Maybe it was for your birthday or a special occasion. People write letters when they want to tell someone something important. Today people can call their friends and family on the phone or send them an email or text message.

In Bible times, when people lived far away, they sent a letter to tell friends or family important news. Today we’re learning that Paul wrote letters to his friend Timothy who was leading a church. Do you remember Paul’s important message?

Paul wanted his young friend to stay away from people who were not following God. These people were doing whatever they wanted even when it disobeyed God’s Word. Paul also told Timothy to keep teaching people to obey God’s Word because it would help people live the way God wants them to.

The Bible teaches us what is right and what is wrong. The Bible also tells us about Jesus, who always did what was right. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven of all our wrong choices when we put our faith in Him. Faith is when we trust Jesus no matter what. I am so glad that God gave us the Bible.

Those letters that Paul wrote to Timothy are right here in our Bible because God wants us to read them and obey them. Following God’s Word will make us wise and give God glory. ”

6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 119:105. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Turn on a flashlight and pass it to a child while they say the first word of the verse. Continue passing the flashlight around while children recite the verse with you. Make sure children do not shine the flashlight in their eyes.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

SAY “ This flashlight could help us see in the dark. It could keep us from tripping. Our key passage tells us that God’s Word, the Bible, is like this flashlight. It shows us the right way to live. Paul told Timothy in his letter that Scripture teaches us what is right and wrong. Let’s sing a song about our key passage. ”

Sing the key passage song, “Your Word (Psalm 119:105).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Display the big picture question poster.

SAY “ Our big picture question is, **What is the Bible?** I bet you remember the answer. The answer is, **the Bible is God’s Word.** Paul told Timothy that Scripture shows us how to follow God and be ready to do every good thing God wants us to do. ”

8 MISSIONS MOMENT

SAY “ Did you know that there are lots of people in the world who can’t hear? Can you imagine what it would be like not to be able to hear? ”

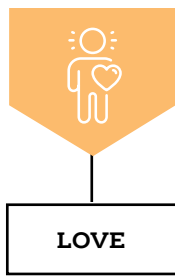
Show preschoolers the “Yvette Aarons Poster.” Teach then about Yvette and lead them in practicing JESUS in sign language. To sign Jesus, touch the middle finger of one hand to the palm of the opposite hand. Repeat the same motion with the opposite hands. Consider using an electronic device to show someone signing JESUS. Pray and thank God for men and women who are missionaries.

SAY “ Many people who are deaf use sign language to communicate. They need someone to tell them about Jesus too! Women like Yvette answered God’s call to go as a missionary to tell others about Jesus. Some people thought she couldn’t do it because she was deaf, but God can use our weakness for His good plan. God used Yvette to tell many people who are deaf the good news about Jesus. ”

Pray and thank God for calling both men and women with different talents and abilities to be missionaries.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

SAY “ Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible so we can know everything we need to be saved and live lives that please You. Thank You also for giving us Jesus, who lived a perfect life and died so we could be forgiven of all the wrong things we have done. In His Name we pray, amen. ”

2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture or the big picture question poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

SAY “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

SAY “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

SAY “ Who was Paul’s friend who received letters from him in our Bible story? ”

SAY “ What is the Bible? The Bible is God’s Word. ”

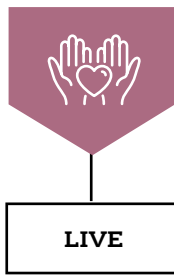
3 PASS THE BIBLE

Instruct preschoolers to sit in a circle. Give each child a different Bible (different colors, different sizes, and children’s picture Bibles). Start the activity by saying “Pass the Bible.” Then direct children to continue passing Bibles around the circle until you say “Stop!” Call out a type of Bible (red Bible or picture Bible). The child holding that Bible must stand up and tell one thing he or she loves about the Bible. Continue until all children have had a turn to say what they love about the Bible.

SAY “ I love the Bible because it tells us about God’s love. The Bible tells us about how God sent Jesus to forgive us of our sin. The Bible shows us how to live and give God glory. Let’s all say, ‘Thank You, God, for the Bible’ on the count of three. One, two, three! Thank You, God, for the Bible! ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

BIBLE RELAY



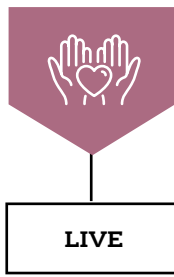
Guide preschoolers to form two teams and stand in single-file lines. Place two chairs on the other side of the room. Give each team a Bible. One child from each team will carry the Bible to the other side of the room and around the chair. When she returns to the starting point, she will gently hand the Bible to the next child. Continue until every child has participated. Consider changing the way children reverently carry the Bible (up high or close to chest) or travel around the chair (tiptoeing or marching).

SAY “Great job carrying and passing the Bible! The Bible is the most important book in the world because the Bible tells us about God’s love for us and His plan to forgive our sin when trust in Jesus. We are happy to tell other people what the Bible says. Whom can you tell about the Bible?”

BIBLE BUDDY BOOKMARKS

Precut foam bookmarks, using a box cutter to cut out various long noses in the middle of the foam. (The “nose” will fit over a page to mark the place.) Use a hole punch to make one or two holes at the top of the bookmark. Distribute foam bookmarks, googly eyes, glue, chenille stems, and markers to preschoolers. Demonstrate how to create a Bible buddy by attaching antennas to the holes in the top, googly eyes above the nose, and then drawing a mouth and eyebrows. Allow children to be creative with their design.

SAY “Great job making Bible buddy bookmarks! Let me show you how you can use your buddy to mark a verse in your Bible. Simply slide the bookmark with the nose in front of the page. I placed this buddy at 2 Timothy 3:16. [Open your Bible and read the verse.] When you get home, ask an adult to help you place your Bible buddy at 2 Timothy 3:16 or another favorite verse.”



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE FOR GOD PICTURES

Before the session, write short statements on strips of paper. Include some statements of living in a way that pleases God (loving Jesus, obeying parents, being kind to siblings) and some that do not please God (telling a lie, pushing a friend, or taking a toy without asking). Mix up these strips and place them facedown in the middle of the table. Place your Bible on the table. Guide children to take turns picking a slip from the pile. Read the statement and ask children to think about it. If the children think it describes living for God, then help the child who drew it place the strip in your Bible. If children think the strip describes not living for God, encourage the child to toss the strip in a trash can. Continue until you read all the strips.

SAY “ Have you ever done any of the things we threw away? We all do those things because we all sin. The Bible helps us know how to live for God and how to tell Him we are sorry when we disobey Him. The Bible also tells us how God sent Jesus who always obeyed. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for all the times we disobey. We are completely forgiven when we trust in Him! Isn’t that good news? ”

SECRET MESSAGE



SAY “ Did you know people who are deaf can read lips? They pay close attention to the shapes of our mouths when we speak to understand what we are saying. Do you think we can try it? ”

Mouth some words and phrases to the preschoolers to see if they can tell what you’re saying: basketball, missionary, Jesus loves you, go to church. Show the “Yvette Aarons Poster” and help children practice signing Jesus.

SAY “ Reading lips is one way to communicate with people who are deaf. It is so important that people who are deaf know the good news about Jesus. That’s why people who are deaf need missionaries who know how to speak with their hands using sign language. Let’s pray and thank God for missionaries like Yvette who take the gospel to people who have trouble hearing! ”

2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete the coloring page. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.