

Lesson 3: “**The BIBLE I Trust**”

A Facilitator’s Guide for Mid-Elementary to Adult Bible Classes

I. Welcome & Prayer (5 mins)

II. Ice-Breaker Questions (no more than 2-3 mins)

- How did you get your first Bible and can you describe it?

III. Discussion & Application (30-35 mins) – write comments on the board to build momentum & reflection.

- You may only get to 3 of the 4 questions. No problem. Choose the ones that are most important for your class or adjust on the fly. Focus on prompts that are provoking stories. Once the stories dry up or have produced an environment where everyone feels their own story, move on to the next question. The goal is inspiration and transformation, which come when each person has learned from another and is ready to share their own story.

1. What evidence and reasoning has led you to trust that the Bible is from God? **(7-10 mins)**
 - a. Possible follow up: what evidence and reasoning has led some to question or even deny that the Bible is from God? What’s our best response(s) to these points?
2. Share a story about the last time you used the Bible to make an important decision in your life or face a certain challenge or obstacle. **(7-10 mins)**
 - a. Possible follow up: How is your life and family different because you consult the Bible as the highest authoritative guide from God for making decisions in life rather than if you did not consider the Bible to be the highest authority?)
3. What are some methods, strategies, and resources that you and your family have used to read, understand, apply, and live out the Bible? **(7-10 mins)**
 - a. Prompts: What version[s] have you read from? How often do you read together/individually? How much time do you spend in one sitting? How do you select the passages to read and how much time you spend? What time of day do you read? What are you studying right now & why?
4. What is your favorite verse/story in the Bible and why? **(5 mins)**
 - a. Possible follow up: What part of the Bible is the most challenging or confusing to you? Which book or section of the Bible would you like to learn more about or wish said something different?

IV. Application (2-3 mins to explain and make sure everyone understands):

- We’ll take 5 mins at the beginning of class each week to check in & see how we are doing on these challenges each week throughout the month.

Believe: Read/Listen to the Bible every day this month (if you miss a day, no problem). If you are already doing this, try a different version for renewed effect (e.g. ESV, NIV, NLT, The Message). Keep a journal of how your daily reading is impacting your life.

Act: Don’t make any important decisions this month without 1st consulting the Bible for divine wisdom.

Teach: Share with a friend or family member how your daily Bible reading, journaling, and consulting of scripture for making important decisions is changing you. Post on [College Church Chat](#) to encourage us all.

Lesson Outline for Bible Class (Birth to Mid-Elementary)

Believe: Hold and sing about the Bible. Talk about what the Bible is—how it’s from God and contains guidance for making decisions in life. Read or act out a Bible story as a class (see if the kids have a favorite Bible story you can all act out).

Act: Share examples from a story book, flannel board/pictures, or a video of people obeying the Bible and disobeying the Bible. Talk about the blessings of obeying the Bible and the consequences of disobeying the Bible based on what happens to the characters when they obey/disobey. Decide as a class to obey.

Teach: Take turns having each child recall 1 thing they remember from class. See if they can act out what obedience at home, school, in public will look like. Bonus points if they tell their parents what they learned when they are leaving class. Extra bonus points if they read/listen to the Bible before class next week.

Lesson Outline for Small Groups & Families

Believe: Watch a scene from a narrated bible movie as a small group/family. Discuss how that scene helps you understand God and yourselves and what you should do this week. Choose a different scene each week. There are free movies (e.g. [The Gospel of John](#) starring Henry Ian Cusick) and purchase options ([Son of God](#) starring Diogo Morgado). (See “Additional Scriptures & Questions” below for Weeks 2-4.)

Act: Make 1 important decision as a small group/family after consulting divine wisdom from the Bible.

Teach: Follow up with your family/small group concerning the outcome of the decision and how it might have turned out if the Bible was not consulted. (Ask how everyone is doing with their daily Bible reading.)

Lesson Outline for Individual Study

Believe: Write down 3 of the top reasons you believe the Bible is from God. Find 2 new reasons to believe based on studying the topic for yourself online, asking others, reading a book, or studying scripture itself.

Act: Memorize or commit to heart in your own words a few Bible verses each week. Meditate on it daily. Try to live it out.

Teach: Share the scripture you have memorized (or committed to heart) with someone new each week this month. Tell them how this exercise is changing your life.

Additional Scriptures & Discussion Questions for Weeks 2-4 (Bible Class, Small Groups, Families, or Individual Study)

General Prompts

1. What is the world teaching us to believe or not believe about the Bible? How is the world teaching us this? What difference does it make in our life if we listen to and believe in the world's view of the Bible?
2. What makes the Bible different from other so-called holy books in the world?
3. What resources help you trust the Bible, understand it, memorize/remember it, apply it to you/family?
4. What part of the Bible do you resist or wish was not in there? Why do you think that is? What would make it easier to hear? What would it take to appreciate this passage being in the Bible?

Specific Scriptures & Prompts

Week 2: All Scripture is Inspired – Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. What difference does it make “from whom you learned” the scriptures? What is the difference between “learning” and “becoming convinced of” scripture (and how do you get from one to the other)? What are some pros and cons of learning scripture early vs. later in life? Choose one of the following to discuss: how is scripture useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, OR training in righteousness? Does “all scripture” mean that we need to know all 66 books to be thoroughly equipped for every good work or that “any scripture(s)” from the 66 books can equip us in righteousness, and what difference does it make whether it means one or the other? How would you explain biblical inspiration to someone?

Week 3: Difficult to Understand – Read 2 Peter 3:14-18. Can you name the letters of Paul? In which books does he speak about the matters referred to here by Peter—the second coming and being spiritually prepared? Which parts of Paul's writings (or any part of the Bible) do you find difficult to understand? How have these parts been “twisted” by the ignorant and unstable to their own destruction? How can you avoid following the misinterpretations of others and instead grow in the true knowledge and grace of Jesus? What resources and strategies do you use to read, interpret, and follow the Bible as best you can?

Week 4: Finding the Bible – Read 2 Kings 22. What is “the Book of the Law” (look it up as a group)? Why was it hidden in the first place? Has anything caused us to hide the Bible today? When Josiah finds the Bible, he

has it read out loud and consults others regarding its ultimate meaning—has there been a time in your life when you have needed others to help you understand the Bible and its meaning for your life—share a story. They inquired of the Lord after hearing the book read—why does scripture reading and prayer often go hand-in-hand? Is there a part of the Bible we as individuals or as a small group, church, or world been neglecting? What do you think would happen if we started to follow that part of the Bible anew?