

Week 1 / Infants KS1

Introduction to the Bible

Session plan

Core value: The Bible is powerful and changes people's lives

Key Verses:

Isaiah 40.8

'The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.' (ESV)

Hebrews 4.12

'For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.' (ESV)

Resources:



Two blades of grass



Two pieces of A4 paper



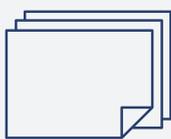
Masking tape or a rope to mark out a start line



Flowers that are starting to turn brown



Two gift-wrapped Bibles



Images of the following stories (one image per story)



A tower of Bibles



Lots of pieces of paper (preferably multi-coloured), each saying 'God's words' – as many as you can make and slot into a large Bible



Toy 'Thor' Hammer and Captain America Shield (or use images)



A world map or globe that the children can gather around

1. Noah 2. Creation 3. Jesus calms a storm 4. Jesus dies and comes back to life 5. Daniel in the Lions' Den 6. Jesus heals people (suggested ideas for non-biblical stories) 7. Elmer 8. We're Going on a Bear Hunt 9. The Day the Crayons Quit 10. The Tiger who Came to Tea 11. Guess How Much I Love You 12. The Gruffalo



ORIGINS
& MEANING



EXODUS
& FREEDOM



EXILE
& PEACE



MESSIAH
& LOVE



SPIRIT
& COMMUNITY



HOPE
& HOME

Bible Starter

Reference the key Bible verse – if using paper, write out the verses on separate pieces of paper like the diagram below. Read the verse aloud together

Start each reading with these lines: *'The Bible is FULL of God's words. What does God have to tell us today?'*



Zoom tweak

- The easiest way to achieve this is to have the verse on a PowerPoint and share your screen
- You can also have it written on paper which you can hold up to the screen

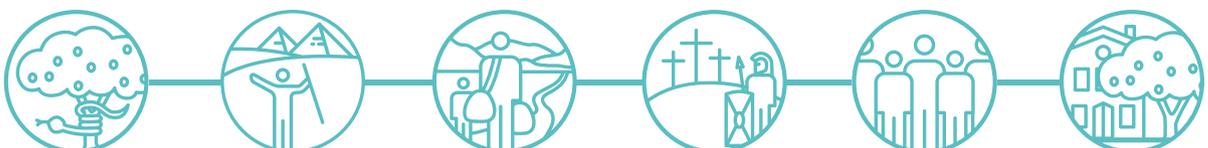
Opening Activity: Blades of grass

Give two volunteers a blade of grass and an A4 sheet of paper. Place the blade of grass on a start line (marked out with masking tape or a rope). On your mark, both volunteers must wave their pieces of paper to create a draft, to move the blade of grass to a finish line; the first to your end line wins. Play this as many times as you like with as many volunteers as you like.

Application: (show the children one of the more now sorry-looking blades of grass). This blade of grass was amazing for our game, but after just a few games it's a little bit broken, a little bit droopy, it looks a little bit sad. We probably need to throw it away. But there is one thing that will NEVER become droopy, old or unusable like the grass – (with excitement, begin to unwrap the wrapped Bible) – THE BIBLE!

Zoom tweak

- You could pre-ask families to get a blade of grass and some paper and have their own fun trying to get their blade of grass from one place to another in their homes
- OR you could set up your device to show you trying to get your blade of grass from one spot to another in your space for the children to watch



Activity: Flowers

Arrange for one of your leaders to come in and hand you some flowers saying something like, 'Hi, I bought you some flowers.' The flowers need to be half-dead and not pretty – offer a half-hearted 'thank-you!'

Ask the children what they think of the flowers? (e.g. They are not very nice, are they? Not a very special gift.)
Ask the children what's happened to them? (e.g. They haven't had enough water, they are dying.)

Throw the flowers in the bin.

Application: Some things are not made to last forever, just like these flowers. However, one thing IS made to last forever – (Unwrap the wrapped Bible) – THE BIBLE!

Zoom tweak

- Show children some half-dead flowers that someone you know gave you today
- Follow the activity as above

Activity: Bible show reel

Application: The Bible will NEVER be pointless and will last forever – but why? Because it is God's story!

Have six key Bible stories printed out (one picture per story). You will also need six non-Bible story images printed out. Ask the children to sort the pictures into two piles – Bible stories and non-Bible stories. You can make this more fun and competitive by splitting the children into teams, each with their own set of pictures – the quickest team to correctly identify the Bible stories wins.

Once the game is completed, ask them to tell you what they know about each of the biblical stories.

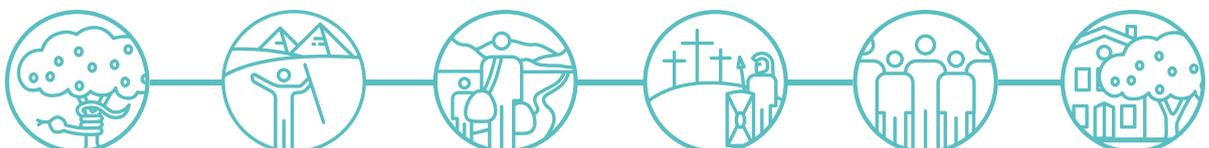
Here are some suggested stories you could use:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Noah | (suggested ideas for non-biblical stories) |
| 2. Creation | 7. Elmer |
| 3. Jesus calms a storm | 8. We're Going on a Bear Hunt |
| 4. Jesus dies and comes back to life | 9. The Day the Crayons Quit |
| 5. Daniel in the Lions' Den | 10. The Tiger who Came to Tea |
| 6. Jesus heals people | 11. Guess How Much I Love You |
| | 12. The Gruffalo |

Application: The Bible is God's Story – but it is also our story! It tells us why the world was made and why we were made. It tells us how we can be the best people we can be. This book is God's Story and when we read it we can know all about God.

Zoom tweak

- Have the images on PowerPoint on screen share and allow the children to tell you which are found in the Bible
- To make this game work for those watching, perhaps number the stories on your PowerPoint and see who's the fastest child to write on a sheet of paper the correct numbers corresponding to the correct story image



Activity: God's words

Application: (Using the large Bible filled with pieces of paper saying: 'God's words', show it to the children)

The Bible will never be pointless and will last forever because it's God's Story. It is also incredibly POWERFUL. Why?

(Tip the Bible open and have lots of little pieces of paper fall out, like confetti – the more the better.) Encourage the children to pick up the pieces of paper and read out the words on them.

Application: The Bible is very powerful because it is FULL of God's words!

Activity: POWERFUL

If you can, source a Captain America toy shield and Thor toy hammer (if not, pictures will be adequate).

Line up the shield, hammer and Bible and ask the children to order them from the most powerful to the least – allow them to explain why. Have a pile of Bibles to hand. Bring them all out and stack them in a tower. Throw the hammer and shield in the bin

Application: Thor's hammer may be able to defeat the biggest, strongest enemy and help Thor fly into space. Captain America's shield might be so strong it can defend him against any force. However, nothing is more powerful than the Bible. The Bible is SO powerful it can change anyone's life. Why? Because the Bible is a place where we can meet God.

Zoom tweak

- Simply have your props by your screen and allow children to tell you their preferred order and why
- Show them putting the weapons in the bin on your screen
- Have a pile of Bibles ready for the children to see when needed

Activity: Robert Jermaine Thomas story

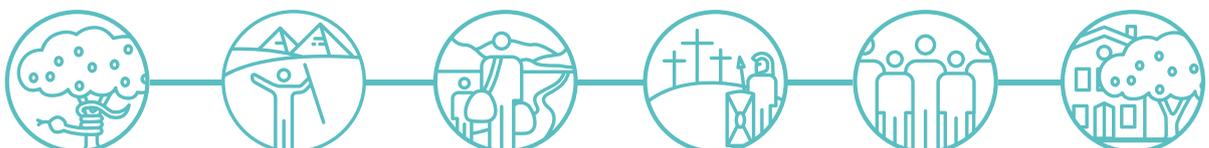
(Summarise this story, but please be sensitive with the details according to the nature of your group. Have a world map or globe to show where places are.)

There was a man called Robert and he lived in Wales (show on map). Robert loved God and loved the Bible.

He wanted to tell everyone about God and give everyone the Bible, so he started by going to China (show on map) to tell people about God and give them the Bible. Robert then heard about a place called Korea and wanted the people that lived there to have the Bible (show Korea on the map). However, Korea was a dangerous place to go, especially if you were taking the Bible.

But Robert learnt the Korean language (show the word for 'Jesus'). 예수

Robert helped translate the Bible into Korean; he got on a ship with the Korean Bible. As their ship approached Korea, soldiers started to shoot at it. However, Robert managed to jump off the ship. He handed out Bibles to anyone he could see as he waded to shore, all the time shouting 'Jesus, Jesus' (said as 'yesu').



Robert Jermaine Thomas story continued...

The last man to whom Robert handed a Bible killed him. The Korean people were told to destroy all the Bibles, but instead they started to use the pages in the Bible as wallpaper in their houses. Guess what happened? People started to read their Bible wallpaper. Remember – the Bible is God’s words; it is powerful and can change people’s lives. People read the Bible on their walls. They started to love Jesus and their lives were changed.

Application: The Bible will last forever because it’s full of God’s words. That makes it powerful. God’s words change people’s lives

Zoom tweak

- Have the world map and relevant countries they need to see on your screen – perhaps each country is a separate PowerPoint slide
- Printed pictures could also work

Creative Prayer

Seat the children in a circle with a pile of Bibles in the middle. Ask each child to come up in turn and place their hand on the Bible and thank God for something they have learnt about the Bible today.

Finish by praying together:

Thank you God for the Bible. Thank you it is so powerful because it is filled with your words.

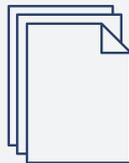
Help us to read it and get to know you better as we read it. Amen

Zoom Tweak

- Ask each child to have a Bible to hand ahead of the session
- They place their hands on their own Bible and pray
- If a child has no Bible, they can place their hands on their heart instead

Optional Craft Activity

You will need:



A4 sheets for each child



Smaller squares of paper for each child



Glue stick



Black markers



Tea bag and water

예수

The symbols for the Korean word ‘Jesus’

Allow children to stain their sheet of paper with tea to make it look old. As these dry give each child a black marker/felt and copy the symbols for the word ‘Jesus’ in Korean on the smaller pieces of paper. Stick these in the centre of their tea-stained sheet.