

Week 1 / Juniors KS2

Introducing the Bible

Session plan

Core value: The Bible is popular, 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)

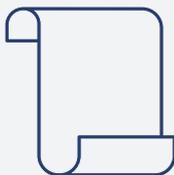
Hebrews 4.12

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

Luke 24.32

'They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"' (ESV)

Resources:



Four scrolls with the following written on them:

- 'You have won the lottery'
- 'Your Mum loves you'
- 'You have been chosen to play football for your dream team'
- 'You will grow up and be a famous actor'



A world map or globe that the children can gather around



Facilities to enable the group to watch *The Seriously Surprising Story*:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndtnZV-5QTo



Front cover pictures of ten well-known children's books, or the actual books if you have them.



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



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; it is a marvellous treasure chest, full of beautiful and important things. What does it 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

Activity: Words that make your heart burn

Choose four volunteers. Give each volunteer a rolled-up piece of paper. Each piece of paper has one of the following written on it

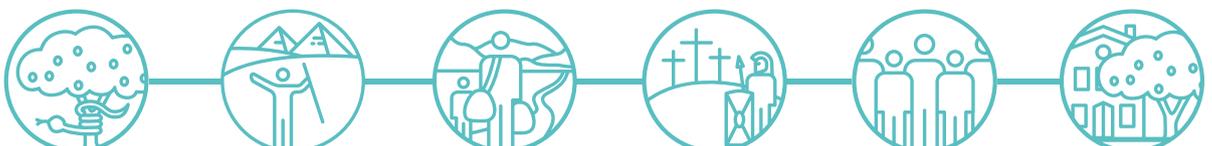
- 'You have won the lottery'
- 'Your Mum loves you'
- 'You have been chosen to play football for your dream team'
- 'You will grow up and be a famous actor'

Ask them to read their letters aloud. On a scale of one to five (five being the most and one the least), how excited did these words make them feel?

Application: All these messages might make you feel excited and make your heart beat a little faster. Do you think that the Bible might be able to do the same, or make you feel even more excited? Let's find out.

Zoom tweak

- Have the scrolls with you and read them one by one
- Ask them to say which one made their heart burn and beat a little faster



Activity: Bible Top Ten

Have around ten different books that the children will know well, e.g. Harry Potter, David Walliams books, Roald Dahl etc. Ask them to place the books in order of the most popular to the least and then ask them to explain their choices. Next, hand them a Bible and ask them where in the order it might go and why?

Application: There are lots of famous, well-known and great books here. However, which one do you think sells the most? (Let them discuss this, then say: Did you know that the Bible is the world's bestselling book – every year?)

Activity: God's words

Application: (Have a large Bible and show it to the children.) The Bible is popular because it is POWERFUL. How is the Bible POWERFUL? Tip the Bible open and have lots of little pieces of paper fall out (like confetti – the more the better). Allow the children to get a piece of paper and read what it says (they all say 'God's words' on them).

Application: The Bible is popular and it's very powerful because it's FULL of God's words! In the Bible we can meet with God.

Activity – Burning hearts

Explain that after Jesus had died on the cross and then come back to life, some of his friends weren't sure if it was all true. They were travelling to a place called Emmaus and chatting. This is what happened:

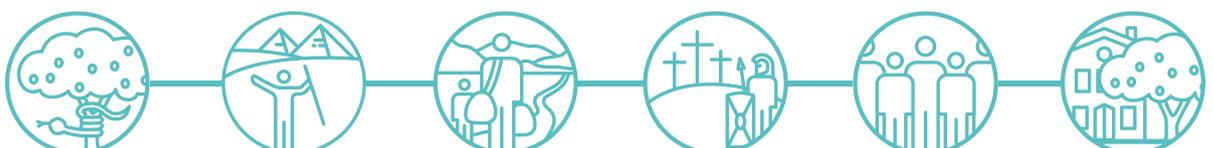
Watch *The Seriously Surprising Story*: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndtnZV-5QTo

Question: Who was the stranger walking with the two people? (Jesus)

Question: As they walked, they talked about the Bible – how did this make them feel? (Excited; they enjoyed talking about Jesus and the Bible)

Application: Jesus, before the big reveal, told these two followers that the WHOLE Bible was about him! The Bible shows us how Jesus loves us. How Jesus from start to end, came to say, 'This is how much I love you' – and that's why he died on the cross.

The Bible says that the hearts of the two followers 'burned' as they discussed the Bible with Jesus (not knowing it was him). Their hearts were super excited. They realised this was because they were learning more of the Bible from Jesus. The Bible is popular. The Bible is powerful. The Bible changes people's lives.



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').

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

Ask each child to remove one shoe and sit in a circle. After each line of the prayer they pass the shoe in their possession one space to the left

Line 1: *Dear Lord, thank you for the Bible* (move shoe to person on left)

Line 2: *Thank you that because it is full of your words it is so powerful* (move shoe to person on left)

Line 3: *When we read it, open our hearts, so you can change our lives* (move shoe to person on left)

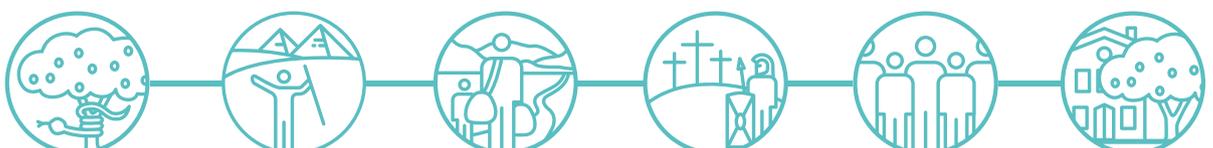
Line 4: *Help us to walk with you more as we read the Bible* (move shoe to person on left)

Amen

Allow children to have fun retrieving their correct shoe as they say 'Amen'.

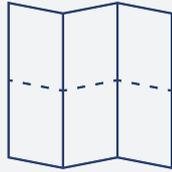
Zoom tweak

- Ask watching children to find one shoe
- As you say each line, they must hold their shoe, or if they're more active, they start with the shoe on one foot and after first line move it to the other foot; after that second line they move it to the right hand and after the fourth line they move it to the left hand



Optional Craft Activity

You will need:



Some old maps



Scissors



Pipe cleaners



Sticky tape

Ask each child to place their foot on an old map and draw around it. Cut their footprint out. Then get two pipe cleaners and use them to create the 'V' found at the top of a flip flop, poking them into holes at the relevant places on the foot outline made from a map. Alternatively you could cut two thin strips from the same map and using sticky tape, stick them in place as the 'V' on a flip flop.

Write on the finished 'flip-flop': 'Walk with Jesus – read the Bible'

Next Session:

Session 2: Origins & Meaning



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