



Lesson 1: One Big Story

Lesson Supply List

- + ***The Chronicles of Narnia* series of books**
(or other similar series)
- + **Blank paper & pencil or marker for each child**
- + **Balloons**
(at least one per child)
- + **Prize Coupon**
(included in curriculum download!)
- + **Something for a group reward**
- + **Lesson 1 Slides**
- + **Bible Take-Home Challenge**
(one per child)

Optional Resources

Watch these videos to prepare you to teach this series:

[“What is the Bible” | The Bible Project \(2:31\)](#)

[“Heaven and Earth” | The Bible Project \(6:42\)](#)

Here’s a recommended song for the series:

[“Shine on Me” | Lifeway Kids Worship](#)

This song reviews our Bible verse (Psalm 119:105) as well as the books of the Bible in a very catchy way.

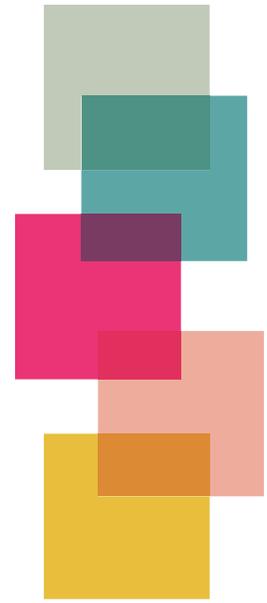
Video clip to enhance lesson one for kids:
(choose one- using a video clip is optional):

[“How to Read the Bible: Biblical Story” | The Bible Project \(5:37\)](#)

Welcome

Hey, kids! It's so great to be with you today!
Let's start by playing a game!

let's play a game!



Treasure Hunt Balloons

Supplies:

+ Balloons of various colors

(at least one or two per child)

+ Prize Coupon

(included in curriculum download!)

+ Group reward

Trinkets, small wrapped candies or gummies, a promise to do an activity they really enjoy, extra points toward a class goal, etc.

In advance:

- Place the coupon, rolled up tightly, in one of the uninflated balloons.
- Inflate and tie off all of the balloons.
- Stash balloons in a very large trash bag until you are ready to play the game.

To play:

At game time, spread the balloons out on the floor.

(Kids will get excited, so be prepared for that!)

Tell kids, "We're going on a treasure hunt. Hidden inside one of these balloons is a coupon for a prize. It's a prize for everyone! So when I say "Go", you are to begin stomping on the balloons to pop them and find the coupon. If you find a coupon, bring it to me."

"Ready? Okay... On your mark... get set... GO!"

Tip: Younger kids, or kids with special needs, may be very bothered or frightened by the loud popping sounds. It's a good idea to warn them, and give them the option of waiting outside of the room with a leader until the activity is over. However, don't exclude them from participating in the reward!

For a greater sense of excitement, play upbeat music while the kids stomp balloons.

let's get started!

That was fun! I love treasure hunts, don't you? It's really exciting when you're searching for something. I'm especially excited because today we're talking about a great treasure— but you may not have recognized it as a treasure. I'm talking about God's Favorite Book. Does that sound like a treasure to you? Today we'll find out what a great treasure it actually is!

Slide 1: God's Favorite Book

Speaking of favorite books, I've brought a few of my favorite books with me. (Show all the books of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series. Read each title. Briefly describe one or two of your favorite moments in the series. If your group is small, you could show all the titles on your tablet instead.)

The *Chronicles of Narnia* is a series of seven books. Each one tells a story of their own, but all seven together tell a bigger story — about the mythical land of Narnia, it's creator, King Aslan, and the adventures of the kids who are mysteriously transported there.

let's learn!

Like I mentioned earlier, today we're beginning a series about God's Favorite Book. Can you guess what the title of that book is? (Allow guesses.) Yes, it's The Bible.

(Show several Bibles, including a Bible app or download on your phone or tablet) Confirm that these are all Bibles.

(Show one of the Bibles)

When we look at just the outside of a Bible, we see a big book. But one book, right? But what it looks like can fool us, because when we open it up and look at the Table of Contents, we see that the Bible is REALLY a series of 66 books, each telling their own story. But like the Narnia series, those 66 books all together tell one BIG story- the biggest story of all- God's Story. See why it might be a treasure?

However, unlike *The Chronicles of Narnia*, which were written by one person, Mr. C.S. Lewis, the 66 books of the Bible had about 40 different authors, and were written hundreds of years apart! The authors were all from different occupations, too. They were shepherds, kings, farmers, priests, poets, scribes, a tax-collector, a doctor, and fishermen. Yet, the writings of these very different people, written over a period of at least 1300 years, all fit together perfectly to tell the beautiful God-Story. THAT, my friends, is a miracle! God speaks to us through the Bible.

AND here's another unique thing about the Bible. Other stories tell you about someone else's adventures, but in the Bible God invites you to become part of God's Story and have your own adventures with Him! Isn't that awesomely cool?! So... what is the story of the Bible?

(If using a video clip, insert it here in place of the following narrative.)

The story of the Bible is about God and how much He loves people. In the beginning He created them to be his close friends— to live with Him in a beautiful heaven-like garden where they could experience His love and goodness forever. But people chose not to trust God's goodness, and to live their own way instead of His way. This choice meant they had to leave their heaven-like home, instead of living with God in close friendship with Him as He'd created them to do. Ever since then, people have been trying to live apart from God, not understanding or experiencing His love.

This must have broken God's heart, but it didn't stop Him from loving people. He put a plan in action to make a way for people to come back into friendship with Him and experience His love. He called one family to follow Him and promised to bless the whole world through them. This was the family of Abraham, who eventually became the nation of Israel. God cared for them, protected them, gave them their own homeland, and also gave them rules to follow. These rules revealed that disobedience of God — our wrong choices — requires a payment of death. Death! But, because of His mercy and love, God allowed the people to kill an animal as payment for their wrong choices, instead of having to die themselves. The animal was known as a sacrifice.

God told his people to build a special place to worship Him and give their sacrifices. This place was decorated with pictures of fruit and trees that reminded everyone of the garden home where people had lived with God in the beginning. In the very center of this worship place was a chamber called the Holy of Holies, where God's Spirit lived. No one could go into the Holy of Holies, except the high priest, one time a year. So people and God were kind of together, but also still apart.

And... as time went by, the people just couldn't obey God for very long. They made wrong choices over and over again, until it destroyed their nation. It looked like God's plan to bless the whole world through Abraham's family would be a failure. But... God used truth-tellers called "prophets" to encourage the people and let them know that God hadn't forgotten them. He hadn't stopped loving them, or given up on his plan. The prophets said God was going to send a savior/king who would bless the world by paying the price for all the wrong things people did. Because of this savior/king, it would be possible for them to be close friends with God again, and experience His love. It was a great promise!

Four hundred more years passed, and finally, God sent the savior/king. It was Jesus! Jesus was the one God had promised, the member of Abraham's family who would bless the whole world. He came and lived among the people and showed everyone what God is really like- He is good, He is pure, He is powerful, He is humble, He is loving and forgiving. He really loves kids!

But believe it or not, there were people who didn't like Jesus! They eventually killed Him by having Him nailed to a cross. Again, it looked like God's plan would fail. But no, Jesus' death was really in God's plan! See, Jesus, who never did anything wrong, chose to pay the price for the wrong choices of all people, including you and me. He died for them. He became the perfect sacrifice that ended the need for any more sacrifices! God brought Him back to life three days later so nothing could ever separate anyone, including you and me, from experiencing His love.

Now people, like you and me, can be close to God again. In fact, when we put our trust in Jesus, he puts his Holy Spirit in us! He changes our hearts so we can love God and love people. Our hearts become God's home — His new temple!

Jesus' followers went all over the world to spread this good news. We're invited to be His followers and join in this mission too! He wants us to share his love with everyone so they can experience it and love him, too! The Bible ends with a promise that someday all things will be made new and ruled by Jesus forever.

That is the story of the Bible. Isn't it WONDERFUL? It really is like a treasure!

let's do an activity!

Give each kid a blank piece of paper and a pencil or marker. Have the kids write the letters B,I,B,L,E vertically down the left side of the paper (or download and print the included sheet, one per child). Tell them you have a fun fact for them to write down beside each letter.



5 fun facts about the Bible:

Slides 2-6: Five Fun Facts

B - Best-selling

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time! It's even the best-selling book on Kindle! Over 5 BILLION copies of the Bible have been sold. So far. And millions more have been downloaded for free using Bible apps.

I - Influential

The Bible is the most influential book ever! The laws and culture of our country and other nations around the world have been influenced by it.

B - Blessing

The Bible promises a blessing to those who learn and obey it— Psalm 119:1 “Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!”) You get to know God’s laws by reading the Bible. You “walk in them” by obeying them.

L - Lots of Languages

The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book. Any. Other. Book.

E - Ever

The first book EVER to be printed using a movable type printing press was the Bible! It was in Latin, and was printed in 1455, in Germany, by Johann Gutenberg. Before that, new Bibles were made by copying the old ones by hand! Can you imagine how long it would take to copy every word in the Bible??

Those are five fun facts. But, have you ever wondered where the name “Bible” came from? Me, too!

I found out that the word “bible” is from the Greek words ta biblia, which means “the scrolls” or “the books.” The Greek word “ta biblia” actually comes from the name of an ancient city called Byblos, which was the official paper supplier for the whole ancient world. Now you know!

Slide 7: Psalm 119:105

The Bible has some important things to say about itself. In Psalm 119:105 we read, “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” That’s not saying the Bible is a flashlight. It’s saying that like a flashlight, the Bible shows us the way- the way to live and follow Jesus. That’s our Bible verse for this unit, so let’s say it together. (Repeat verse with kids. If desired, add motions.)

OK, do you want the best life possible? Go to the Bible to find God’s way to live. It’s not just a great book of stories from long ago. It’s God’s Story, and gives us guidance on how to live our best lives today!

let’s talk to God!

“

Hello God,
Thank you for the gift of the Bible and Your message to us today and for all time. Help us to really get to know the Bible, so we can understand the best way to live — Your way
Goodbye, God.

”

Dismiss to groups for discussion.

let's talk about it!

Convo ??? Questions

- Of all the books you've read, or have been read to you, which is your favorite? Why?
- What's something new you learned about the Bible today?
- Do you think it's important to read the Bible for yourself? Why do you think that?
- How can you start getting the Bible into your mind and heart every day?

Here are some examples of situations in which someone faces a choice about what to do. Tell us how knowing the Bible might be helpful to the person in each situation:

Madison has a hard time with math. Her friend offered to let Madison copy her paper on the next math test. Thinking about it gives Madison a tummy ache. She needs to decide what to do.

Finn's neighbor went on vacation. He offered to pay Finn five dollars to walk his dog every day while he was gone. Finn forgot to do it for a couple of days. When the neighbor returned, he asked, "So, Finn. How did it go? Did you earn the five dollars?" Finn didn't know what to say.

Paisley's parents had to go out of town for a week, leaving Paisley at her grandma's house. After a day or two, Paisley started to miss her parents. At bedtime, she felt especially sad, and didn't know what to do.

challenge

Go on a Treasure Hunt!

Search your home to collect all of the Bibles your family has.

Be sure to count any Bible apps or downloads your family has on phones, tablets, or computers. If your family has no Bibles, find free Bibles online at Biblegateway.com or Bible.com

■ How many are there? Write that number here: _____

■ Which family members do they belong to?

■ Look through them to discover how they are different, and how they are all the same.

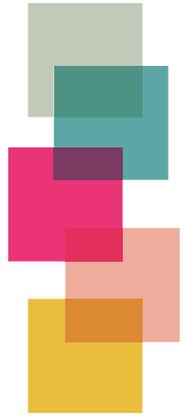
■ Use one Bible to complete the following challenge:
(Yes! You may ask a parent to help you find the answers.)

■ What book of the Bible tells about Creation?

■ What is the name of one book of the Bible that tells about the laws God gave to the people of Israel through Moses?

■ What is the name of one book of the Bible that tells about Jesus?

■ Find this Bible verse:
Book of Psalms, chapter 119, verse 105. What does it say?
Draw a picture about it on the next page!



Psalms 119:105 says...

Draw your picture here!