PART 3

Questions about God and the Bible
PART 3: Questions about God and the Bible

Is the Bible really true?

The Answer
Yes! The Bible really is true. One proof is that promises in the Bible, made thousands of years in advance, have come true with great accuracy.

Bible Proof

- **PSALM 33:4** - For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.
- **JOHN 19:36a** - These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled.
- **2 PETER 1:20-21** - Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Aim
To discover how difficult it is to make accurate predictions, then examine several Bible predictions to see how God caused them to come true.

Before you teach ...
Modern children are thinking children. Though this can be intimidating to adults, it also works for our children’s benefit. They will not believe something just because someone tells them. They need proof for almost everything. This impacts children in church, where they need proof, for example, that the Bible is real. In this lesson, they will learn how God’s promises, kept over hundreds and even thousands of years, prove that the Bible is God’s true Word.

Materials
- five dice
- a newspaper article mentioning Israel or Palestine (optional)

TO DO LIST:
- Gather materials.
- Locate an article about Israel or Palestine in a newspaper.
Object Lessons Answering Kids’ Toughest Questions about God

THE LESSON

Introduction: Begin by discussing answers to the following questions with your students. Can we believe everything people tell us? How do we know what is true? Are movies true? Are commercials? How about the words in the Bible? Are they true? How do we know? Invite students to discover some proof with you, today, using a bunch of dice.

Demonstration: Give the students a chance to toss all five dice at once. Before each turn, students must tell the others which numbers they predict will be showing on the dice. After several have taken a turn, discuss the results: Did anyone guess all numbers correctly? Can anyone do this accurately all the time? Is it easy to predict the future? Do we even know what will happen this week?

Discussion: Look up the following Bible predictions. Discuss whether these things came true or not.

1) The family of Abraham (also known as Israel) would become a great nation. Read Genesis 35:11, then look in the newspaper for Israel or show a current map. How long have Israel and the Jewish people been around?
2) A Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Read Micah 5:2, then Luke 2:11.
3) Jesus will be great. Read Luke 1:31,32. Is Jesus famous?
4) Jesus predicted he would die and rise again. Read Luke 18:31-33, then read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

Hundreds of years passed between the time the predictions were given and when they came true. Could the people who wrote the predictions have caused them to happen? No, they were already dead! Who could cause this to happen? How does this help us know the Bible is true? Men wrote the Bible, recording the words God gave them. The predictions came true. God did it. His words are true.

Application: Do you believe the Bible is true? If so, what will you do about it? Read it, learn it, obey what it says. The Bible gives us God’s guidelines for living life in the best way possible.

Something Extra: Invite kids to read God’s Word on their own in the coming week. Read one or two verses. Think about why it is important.

BIBLE STORY IDEA

ISAAC IS PROMISED TO ABRAHAM (Genesis 15:1-6; 18:9-15; 21:1-7) God promised to give Abraham a son. It was impossible, because Abraham and Sarah were very old. God caused it to happen.

Ideas for Use Anywhere

- If dice are not available or acceptable in certain church settings, number 20 slips of paper 1-20. A child guesses a number, then tries to pull that number from the stack.
- Be sensitive to strong attitudes toward Israel worldwide. Be willing to affirm God’s love for all of Abraham’s descendants.
The Answer

The Bible contains God's guidelines for the best life. Our lives turn out messy when we do not follow his directions.

Bible Proof

- **PSALM 119:105** - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
- **PSALM 103:17 & 18** - But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children – with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

Lesson Aim

To show that just as things turn out messy when we do not follow the directions for making a sandwich, life turns out messy when people do not follow God's directions in the Bible.

Before you teach ...

Though the Bible may be true, kids do not always see the value of following its rules. God wants us to follow his guidelines so we can have the best life possible. Statistics show that people who follow God's instructions day after day are less likely to end up in the hospital, to commit suicide or to get divorced, to name a few. In this lesson, kids will learn that following God's Word can help their lives be great!

TO DO LIST:

- Gather materials.
- Cover the demonstration area with a towel, plastic or newspaper for easy cleanup.
- Pray!
THE LESSON

Introduction: Ask your students if they like rules. Which rules are easy to follow? Which rules are hard to follow? Why is the Bible such a big deal to God? It contains his guidelines for living life in the best possible way. The following demonstration will help your kids understand this better.

Demonstration: Tell your students that you are really hungry, but you forgot your instructions for making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Can they help by telling you how to make it? Do exactly the opposite of what they tell you to do. When they tell you to spread peanut butter on bread, drop jam on the plate. When they tell you to put the pieces of bread together, put the sticky sides out. What went wrong? Why didn’t this sandwich come together right? Because the teacher did not follow the directions.

Discussion: What kinds of instruction does God give us in the Bible? God gives us commands to obey, promises to believe in, and principles to help us understand life. What happens if we do not do things the way he tells us? If we refuse to follow God’s instructions, we can make an even bigger mess out of our lives than this sandwich mess. Why does God give us rules? He did not give them to be mean; he gives these as instructions for the best life possible. Why is the Bible such a big deal? It keeps us out of “messes” and teaches us how to live.


Something Extra: Invite students to find the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Condense them into simple phrases, writing one phrase on each paper. Then, work together to divide the commandments into two groups: those relating to “Loving God” and those that have to do with “Loving Your Neighbor.”

Ideas for Use Anywhere

- Peanut butter and jelly are not eaten worldwide. This same demonstration can be done with a child telling an adult how to put on a jacket.
- If using peanut butter or food, avoid wasting the food after the demonstration is over.

BIBLE STORY IDEAS

ACHAN’S SINS/BATTLE OF AI (Joshua 7:1-12)
Because Achan disobeyed God’s instructions, people died needlessly in battle.

THE TWELVE SPIES (Numbers 13 & 14)
Ten spies did not have faith to face the giants. They chose not to obey. It cost them 40 years in the wilderness. What a mess!
The Answer
Yes! The Bible is God’s Word. It is totally unique. No other book is as reliable.

Bible Proof
- **PSALM 119:89** - Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
- **2 TIMOTHY 3:16** - All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

Lesson Aim
To show that God’s words and advice in the Bible are totally reliable, whereas other people’s words and advice may not prove reliable over time.

Before you teach ...
Often, kids do not realize that the advice in the Bible is different from other advice about life and getting along. This demonstration will help them to recognize that the Bible is far more reliable a guide for their life than the words of any other book, person or authority. Though some are good, these others will not prove reliable over time. Enjoy strengthening your students’ faith in the Word of God today.

Materials
- a concrete or stone brick
- a gelatin brick
- cookie sheets or trays
- towels

TO DO LIST:
- Gather materials.
- Make the brick of gelatin, chilling a double strength batch of gelatin in a small loaf pan. Unmold just before class. Keep covered on two separate trays.
- Pray!
Object Lessons Answering Kids’ Toughest Questions about God

THE LESSON

Introduction: Announce that you need a volunteer to help you with an experiment. Set the covered trays on the floor (one with a stone brick, one with a gelatin or soft brick). Ask for one volunteer. The student must be willing to take off shoes and socks. Use an adult volunteer if class members are too young.

Demonstration: Invite the volunteer to take off both socks and shoes. Uncover the stone brick. Ask the volunteer to step on it. (The other brick should not be visible yet.) Does the brick hold your weight? Is it strong enough to stand on? Is it sturdy? Will it last? Yes! It is strong. Next, unveil the gelatin brick. Ask the volunteer to step on this brick. The volunteer stands on the brick, only to find it squishing flat between his or her toes. Does this brick hold your weight? Is it strong enough to stand on? Is it sturdy? Will it last? No! It is not strong. It is a mess. Thank the volunteer and ask him or her to be seated. (Ask an assistant to help the student clean off his or her feet with towels or rags.)

Discussion: Would you rather build your life on advice that is strong, like the concrete brick, or on advice that might look good, but is not reliable? Most kids will answer that they want to build their lives on something reliable. God’s word is like the concrete brick. How is the Bible different from other people’s books? Other books, though they may contain some good advice, will not always hold true when life’s toughest tests come along. The Bible is reliable.

Application: Invite a student reader to read 2 Timothy 3:16. What difference can God’s Word make in a kid’s life? According to this verse, the Bible can teach kids, correct kids, and train them to be righteous. This is the best way to live.

Something Extra: Challenge your students to make a Bible verse “Wrist Wreminder”. Cut a strip of fun foam (3/4” X 12”). With a permanent marker, write the first letter of each word in Proverbs 3:5 across the foam strip (like a WWJD bracelet). Tape in place around wrists. Invite students to memorize the verse. Wear the bracelet for a week. How was this advice different from other advice your students heard during their week?

Ideas for Use Anywhere

- Avoid using this lesson where a mess signals disrespect or waste.
- Substitute a loaf of bread, mud or a balloon for the gelatin brick, if needed.

BIBLE STORY IDEAS

SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM (1 Kings 3) Solomon knew he needed God’s wisdom for life’s difficulties. He prayed and asked God to help him, and God did.

WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS (Matthew 7:24-29) Jesus taught that our foundation needs to be on hearing and doing what he says. Where do we find what he says?
PART 3: Questions about God and the Bible

How can such an old book be good for kids?

The Answer
God’s book, though written thousands of years ago, is a book that has perfect advice for people of all ages.

Bible Proof

- **HEBREWS 4:12** - The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates ... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- **PSALM 119:9** - How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

Lesson Aim
To show that just as vitamins have always been essential ingredients for healthy bodies, the Bible, though written many years ago, has ingredients needed for the spiritual health of all people from the beginning of time until the present day.

Before you teach ...
Kids may think the Bible is old fashioned and the words in it do not apply to them. This is not what God says about his Word. He says his Word is essential to us. It is not a book just for the generations in which it was written, but the Word is living and active. The Bible is an essential ingredient to every person’s spiritual health, no matter how old or young.

Materials
- vitamins in a bottle
- Bibles

TO DO LIST:
- Optional: prepare a fruit or vegetable snack for your students. Research which vitamins are found in that snack.
THE LESSON

**Introduction:** Discuss with your students how long ago the different parts of the Bible were written. It was written over thousands of years by forty different authors. Is the Bible outdated now? Some books that were written just one hundred years ago are already outdated. Is the Bible any different? How can such an old book be good for kids?

**Demonstration:** Show the kids the bottle of vitamins. (Do NOT give out vitamins in your class. If you wish, you could give students a carrot or piece of fruit and tell them which vitamins are in it.) Why are vitamins good for us? How do they help us? They have ingredients that our bodies need to stay healthy. What happens to our bodies if we don’t get the right vitamins? Our bodies become unhealthy. They do not work as well as they were designed to work. Did Noah also need vitamins, from his food, for a healthy body? Did King David? Your mom or dad? Vitamins are needed by people of all ages to keep their bodies healthy.

**Discussion:** How is the Bible like vitamins? The ingredients in the Bible are more important to our spiritual health than vitamins are to our physical bodies. All people need vitamins to stay healthy. All people need the Bible to be spiritually healthy. Read Hebrews 4:12. How is God’s Word good for us? It is living and active. This means it will make a difference in the lives of every generation, not just the people of Bible times. What happens if we do not get the vitamins we need? We may become sick. What happens when we ignore God’s Word? We miss out on the important truth about Jesus and may spiritually die without him as our Savior. We miss God’s best for our lives. Was this true in Bible times, too?

**Application:** Have you received Jesus? This is the most important ingredient for eternal spiritual health. Kids can pray today to receive Christ. How often do people take vitamins? Daily. How often do we need God’s Word? Every day, just like vitamins. How will you “take in” God’s Word (“Vitamin W”) this week?

**Ideas for Use Anywhere**

- Vitamin supplements are not used worldwide. Use fruits or vegetables and name beneficial vitamins in each: bananas, carrots, cabbage, tomatoes, etc.
- “Vitamin W” will not translate well. Avoid it.

**Something Extra:** Invite students to read Psalm 19:7-11. List benefits of God’s Word. How are these better than the benefits of vitamins?

**BIBLE STORY IDEAS**

- **JOSIAH FINDS THE BOOK OF LAW** (2 Kings 22) Josiah and the people found God’s Word. They read it and obeyed.
- **YOUNG DAVID** (I Samuel 16) David’s heart was pure from a young age. God chose him to be king. How did he keep his way pure? Read Psalm 119:9.
The Answer
The Word of God will never be extinct. God has kept his Word safe generation after generation. It will last forever.

Bible Proof
- **MATTHEW 24:35** - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
- **ISAIAH 40:8** - The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.

Lesson Aim
To show that just as a trick candle’s flame cannot be extinguished, God’s Word in the Bible can never be destroyed.

Before you teach ...
Life changes at such an alarming rate. Knowledge increases rapidly. What was “in” last year is outdated this year. Children growing up in this fast-paced world need today’s lesson. Though written hundreds and thousands of years ago, the Bible is still applicable to today. In fact, it is still a best-seller. So? Why will kids care? Because, in this world of rapid change, God’s Word is something secure and reliable they can trust in for a lifetime and beyond.

**PART 3: Questions about God and the Bible**

**Won’t the Bible become extinct soon?**

**Materials**
- a trick candle
- matches
- a cup of water

**TO DO LIST:**
- Bring something to support the candle (muffin, lump of playing dough, candlestick).
- Be sure a cup of water is handy to extinguish the flame after the demonstration.
- Pray!
THE LESSON

Introduction: Invite students to name books they enjoy reading. How long ago was the book written? How long will people love this book? Will people be reading it in 100 years or 1000 years? How about the Bible? Will it become extinct soon? Since the Bible was written so long ago, some kids – and adults – think the Bible is outdated. But this is not true. This demonstration will help us learn the truth about the Bible.

Demonstration: Light the candle and ask two kids to come up and blow it out. After they blow it out, invite them to sit down. Act like the demonstration is over. Be surprised when the candle flames again. Ask another pair to come blow out the candle. Maybe they will do a better job than the first group. What’s wrong? Why can’t they blow the candle out either? It is a trick candle. It is not ordinary.

Discussion: Do all candles keep flaming again? No, they do not come back to flame again. How was our candle different? It could not be extinguished. How is this like the Bible? Over the years, some people have tried to stop the message of Jesus by making Bibles illegal. They have thought the Bible was an ordinary book about religion. Some rulers have torn the Bible to bits or even burned it. In some countries it is illegal to own a Bible. The U.S. does not allow teachers to teach the Bible in public schools. Sometimes it seems as though the Bible may go extinct. Will it? Can it be destroyed? No! It can never be destroyed because it is God’s Word. It is not a trick. It is true. It will last forever.

Application: Invite a student to read Matthew 24:35 and Isaiah 40:8. What difference does it make in a kid’s life that God’s Word will never pass away? Kids can trust the truths of the Bible all their lives. Other things may change and become outdated, but not God’s Word. How does this help us trust God?

Something Extra: Encourage the kids not to let their Bibles “become extinct” in their own lives. Challenge them to read the Bible every day for a whole week. Read two verses from Psalms each day. Think about it. Obey it.

IdeaS for Use Anywhere

Avoid this illustration if a trick candle is not available.

BIBLE STORY IDEAS

JOSIAH & THE BOOK OF THE LAW (2 Chronicles 34) Even when God’s Word was lost for a time, God caused the priests to find it. The people began obeying when they heard it again.

JEHOIAKIM BURNS THE SCROLL (Jeremiah 36) Jehoiakim burned God’s scroll. God gave his words to Jeremiah again.
PART 3: Questions about God and the Bible

Can’t I learn about God from other books?

The Answer
The Bible is the only book in existence that tells us the exact truth about God because God, through the Holy Spirit, authored it.

Bible Proof

COLOSSIANS 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

2 TIMOTHY 3:15b-16 - You have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

Lesson Aim
To show that just as dirty water obscures the word “JESUS,” other books hide the perfect, clear truth about Jesus, God’s Son.

Before you teach ...
Kids today are taught to embrace every view of God as equally valid. There are no absolutes. Because of this, many believe the Bible is on the same level as every other spiritual book. But the Bible alone teaches the pure truth about God and his Son, Jesus!

Materials

- transparent container (glass or plastic) with water
- an index card reading “JESUS” in large letters
- clear plastic bag
- food coloring, juice, sauce, or dirt
- a mixing spoon

TO DO LIST:

- Gather materials.
- Write “JESUS” on the card. Tightly seal inside the plastic bag.
- Pray for your students!
THE LESSON

Introduction: Discuss these questions. What do your students like to learn from books? How many books can teach us the truth about God? Are these all equally true? What does each book say about Jesus? Is it different? Give some examples of what different religious books teach about Jesus (The Koran – prophet, good man; The Book of Mormon – one of many gods, like us; etc.).

Demonstration: Show kids the container of water. Read the word “JESUS” on the card (in plastic inside the container). Can they see it clearly? Explain that this clarity is like reading the Bible. The Bible gives us a true picture of what Jesus is like, because the Bible is God’s Word. Next, mix food coloring or juice into the water. Tell the kids to imagine that they are now reading a book that believes Jesus is a prophet but not God. Is this what the Bible says? The truth about Jesus cannot be seen clearly. Add more coloring and stir. Imagine we are reading a book that says Jesus was a good man and some of the things he said were interesting. Is this what the Bible says? No! Add the dirt and mix it in. Imagine we are reading a book that teaches that people or animals can be gods. It does not even mention Jesus. Explain that the truth about Jesus, which the Bible teaches so clearly, cannot even be seen now. These books totally cover up the truth about God.

Discussion: When could you see the word “JESUS” the clearest? Why? Does any book, other than the Bible, teach the whole truth about Jesus? How can we tell if a book about God is truthful or not? Compare it to the Bible.

Application: Read 2 Timothy 3:15b-16. What does this verse tell us about who wrote the Bible? It was God-breathed. Why was it written? The Bible’s goal is to bring us to the knowledge of salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus, and to help us grow to be more like Jesus in everything we do.

Something Extra: Ask the kids to think of something they have been told about Jesus or God that they are not sure about. Challenge them to have a Christian adult help them find out what the Bible teaches about that subject.

Ideas for Use Anywhere

- Plastic zipper bags are not available in all areas. Use a regular plastic bag, or a small, clear jar to protect the card with the word “Jesus” on it.

BIBLE STORY IDEAS

- SIMON THE SORCERER (Acts 8:9-25)
  Simon mixed up truth from many religions to impress people. He learned the real truth about Jesus from Peter.

- THE ETHIOPIAN (Acts 8:26-40)
  The eunuch read God’s Word. He did not understand. When Philip explained it, he wanted Jesus as his Savior. No other book’s words can lead people to the truth about salvation.