



Date: _____
Series: Sharpening Your Sword
Winter Year 2, Lesson 36

How Does the Bible Help Our Lives?

Take Home Point: *God's word is a light for our situations today and our direction for the future.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Psalm 119:105; selected verses applying to specific life challenges.

Key Verse: Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path."

We will help kids know:

- God's word is relevant and applies to everyday life.
- We find answers in the Bible for all of life's special situations.
- The Bible is a guide for our lives, but especially, a guide for our relationship with God.




We will help kids feel:

- Interested in applying God's word to their lives.
- Eager to learn more of God's word daily.

We will help kids do:

- Search through the Bible to find verses, read them, and see how they might apply to life's situations.
- Make a reference card citing certain passages that fit situations in their lives.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Review the books of the Old Testament and see how the small group, as a team, can come up with the most books memorized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bookmarks with books of the Bible from previous lessons
Large Group 	4 8 9 9	Overview Review – Bible facts from the previous lesson are reviewed. Challenge – Each group will be timed to see how long it takes to go through and recite the books of the Old Testament. Teaching - Amplified voices of sin are illuminated by the illustration of the light of Jesus who saves people from the darkness of sin.	<i>Costume:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> black cape and a black mask <i>Props:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> toy plastic sword Bible butcher paper, dry erase board or chalkboard working lamp prizes stopwatch flashlight as a relay baton two penlights for readers
Small Group Application 	4	Kids will see if they can match specific scenarios to selected Bible verses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible reference cards cut apart (Appendix A) Bible reference flashlight (Appendix B) for each student pens or pencils

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As kids gather: *Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.*

Supplies: *extra Bible bookmarks from the previous lessons of this series*

Today's Large Group presentation will include a contest to see which group, as a team, can recite all the books of the Old Testament. The key to involving as many kids as possible is to require that no student recite more than five books in a row, although any student can help recite after at least one other student has tried.

Review the books of the Bible as a group. Tell kids it is important to pay close attention to this review because today there will be a competition to see which groups can best remember the books of the Old Testament. Have kids open their Bibles to the table of contents or take out their Bible bookmarks with the books of the Bible listed on the back. (See appendix of lesson #34.) Hand out extras, if needed.

Take turns saying the books of the Old Testament. Then have kids practice saying five books at a time and the next student saying the next five and so on. See, as a team, how many books are memorized.

It might be helpful for students who have trouble remembering the books to work on memorizing five in a row and let them say those when it gets to be their turn. After the group has had some success, conclude with discussion.

Can anyone share a time when you read the Bible at home with your family and the verses seemed to apply to your life in a special way?

Can you share a decision that seemed easier to make after reading the Bible or the meaning of an experience or feeling you had that became clear after reading the Bible?

You may need to begin discussion with an example from your own life. Then say:

Today we will learn that: **God's word is a light for our situations today and our direction for the future.*

Have kids take their Bibles to Large Group.

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Review – Bible facts from the previous lesson are reviewed.

Challenge – Each group will be timed to see how long it takes to go through and recite the books of the Old Testament.

Teaching - Amplified voices of sin are illuminated by the illustration of the light of Jesus who saves people from the darkness of sin.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Application Activity

Supplies: individual Bible reference cards

Today we will see how **God's word is a light for our situations today and our direction for the future.*

I will give each one of you a Bible reference to look up. When you find the verse, read it to yourself. Then I will read a real life situation. You will decide if your Bible verse applies to that situation. Every situation I read will match one of the verses I pass out. Let's see if we can match them.

Pass out the Bible references (see appendix) to each student and have them look up his/her verse and read it silently. If there are more verses than kids, let some take more than one.

Read a scenario and ask who has the Bible verse that might apply to it. (Don't read the topic: i.e. Salvation, Forgiveness, etc.) Let the student read his/her verse. If it is not the one we suggest, you might let the student give his/her idea why this one makes sense for the situation. Then you might say something like,

There is another verse that I think also will apply here. Does anyone else think they have a match?

If kids don't seem to get the matching verse, you might ask:

Who has Colossians 3:13? Would you please read it? This verse talks about forgiveness. How might this verse apply to the situation I read?

After your group has matched the scenario to the Bible verse, have kids write the Bible reference above the line matching the life topics on the flashlight handout (see appendix). For example, you might say:

Since Colossians 3:13 talks about forgiveness, copy that Bible reference on the line below the word "Forgiveness" on your handout. Then, sometime in the future, if you need a reference to help you deal with forgiveness, you can look up this Bible verse.

Continue in the same manner with the rest of the scenarios and Bible verses, writing the appropriate Bible verse as you go along.

Scenarios:

- 1) Salvation – Joni has a friend who's never been to church. She doesn't know what to believe about who God is and how to have a relationship with him. She asked Joni, "What is it that you DO in church?" Joni remembers truth from God's word and shares it with her.**
- 2) Forgiveness – Justin was "burned" by his former good friend, Chase, who made fun of him behind his back to some other friends. Justin overheard him say those hurtful things. Since then, Justin thinks about it all the time and when he does, he thinks about how he can get even with Chase.**
- 3) Peace – Chandler is a very busy person. She is always doing something. Sometimes she volunteers at the hospital and sometimes she stays after school to help younger kids with their homework. She's active in many clubs and in church, too. Even though she does so many good things to help people, she just doesn't feel like she does enough for others. She tells her friend Nikki about her concern. Nikki feels the need to share something from God's word that will help Chandler.**
- 4) Discouragement – James breaks his ankle and, worse yet, it happens during basketball season. He doesn't understand how God could let such a bad thing happen to him. His teammate Dennis shares some truth from God's word.**

- 5) Joy – Sandra asked Erika how it is that she’s so happy. No matter what, Erika seems to always think of the positive things in her life and counts her blessings. Erika shares her secret and tells Sandra some thoughts from God’s word.
- 6) Sickness – Tess is going through a tough time. She’s been sick at home but the doctors can’t tell what’s wrong. Tess is getting worried. She needs help from God’s word.
- 7) Loneliness – Courtney moves to a new school. She doesn’t know anyone and misses the friends she left behind at her old school. After the first day, she came home and had tears in her eyes as she dreaded going back to school the next day. She opened the Bible to find a passage for comfort and encouragement. These words helped her.
- 8) Prayer – Lisa felt far away from God. She knows that she needs to talk to him but doesn’t quite know what to say. When she read the Bible, she found that it helped her. This is what it said.

Bible references the students will look up:

Patience – Colossians 1:11, *“We ask him to strengthen you by his glorious might with all the power you need to patiently endure everything with joy.”*

Joy – Romans 15:13, *“May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace through your faith in him. Then you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Sickness – Psalm 30:2, *“O Lord my God, I cried out to you for help, and you healed me.”*

Loneliness – Matthew 28:20, *“And remember that I (Jesus) am always with you until the end of time.”*

Discouragement – Romans 12:12, *“Be happy in your confidence, be patient in trouble, and pray continually.”*

Forgiveness – Colossian 3:13, *“Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

Salvation – 1 Timothy 2:4-6, *“He wants all people to be saved and to learn the truth. There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and humans – a human, Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for all people to free them from their sins.”*

Peace – John 16:33, *“I’ve told you this so that my peace will be with you. In the world you’ll have trouble. But cheer up! I (Jesus) have overcome the world.”*

Prayer – Jude 20, *“Dear friends, use your most holy faith to grow. Pray with the Holy Spirit’s help.”*

Conclude repeating the take home point:

We see from this activity that **God’s word is a light for our situations today and our directions for the future.*

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for his word that lights the way in our sinful world. Thank him that his word applies in everyday situations now and gives us direction for the future. Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt us to read God’s word daily.

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Large Group Presentation

The Bible Helps Our Lives

Costume:

- *simple black cape and a black mask to resemble the Zoro character*

Props:

- *toy telescopic plastic lance that extends when flipped forward, or possibly another option of a telescopic antenna rigged to a homemade sword handle (used for pointing out the key verses of the Bible)*
- *Bible as the sword tucked into presenter's pocket or belt, like a sword in its sheath*
- *butcher paper, dry erase board or chalkboard to write group times for score*
- *lamp that can be lit with a match or a flashlight lamp using batteries or flashlight*
- *prizes such as candy or trinkets for the group that best recites the books of the Old Testament in order*
- *stopwatch*
- *flashlight as a relay baton*
- *two penlights for readers*

Prep:

- *See how dark the room can get.*
- *Decide on a cue to communicate with another adult to signal when in the script the room needs to be darkened.*

Introduction: "Zaro! The Magnificent!"

Dramatic entrance with flying cape.

Hello again. I am Zaro, the Magnificent! I'm here with my sword (referring to the lance) **and my other sword** (referring to the Bible).

Review

We've already learned that the Bible's purpose is to show us Jesus, how to follow him and that he is the way to heaven. We also learned how the Bible fits together, written by one author, God, who used many people to co-write it.

How many writers did he use? (Thirty-six.)

...over how many different centuries? (*Sixteen.*)

... for a total of how many different books? (*Sixty-six.*)

Books of the Bible Challenge Game

For us to be able to use the sword and keep it sharp, we must be able to find our way through God's word. That's why it's important to memorize the books of the Bible. You've been given that challenge already, so let's see which group is worthy of the Bright Brainy Bible Book Award of Brilliance!

To earn this prestigious award, listen closely to the rules. Each group will have a flashlight as a baton. Once I say, "Old Testament experts, on your marks, get set, go", the first student begins. No student may say more than five books at a time before he passes the baton to one of his teammates. The teammate continues for as many books as she can remember, but not more than five before she passes it to the next team member. For any book that is recited in the wrong order or is left out, I will add an extra five seconds to the score. Shepherds, please listen carefully and count the number of mistakes made.

Give groups some time to discuss strategy and number themselves into an order for competing. Play the contest. If you have only two or three groups, have each group come up separately.

For churches with many groups, let the groups all begin reciting at the same time having the shepherd judge if books are skipped or in the wrong order. Start with all groups standing. Have the groups sit down quietly as they finish. Tell them their time on the stopwatch. After all the groups are finished have the shepherds report how many errors their group had. Add five seconds for each error.

Teaching

For today's teaching you will need to have two shepherds (one male and one female) in another part of the room to read some of the "messages of darkness," that are part of this world's thinking. When he/she hears the cue, "messages of darkness," he/she will know it's his/her turn to read. Each will need a penlight to read.

Zaro begins the introduction with the lights on. Then the lights are turned completely off and the room made as dark as possible. Be sure to test this beforehand.

Let us begin. God is light, there is no darkness in him. He made us so that we would be children of the light so we would walk in the light, so that we would know him as the true God and enjoy his light

in all of our life. But when man sinned, virtual darkness came on the land.

Turn off the lights.

With sin and rebellion against God, all people lived in spiritual darkness at one time. Even though they were in spiritual darkness, oftentimes they were not aware they were lost and had no direction in their lives. Instead, they heard the voices of darkness like:

Cue alternating female/male amplified voices from offstage:

- **“Ignore God.”**
- **“Be your own God.”**
- **“Get more stuff, that’s what you need to be happy.”**
- **“If someone hurts you, hurt them back, only more!”**
- **“If you want something, you should have it. Go ahead and take it.”**
- **“Everyone can find his/her own way to God. You can make God to be whatever you want him to be.”**
- **“You don’t have to respect what your parents say – you are old enough to make up your own mind.”**
- **“There are many things more important than finding out about God. Don’t worry about him now.”**
- **“There is no way to know for sure if Jesus is God and that he’s the only way to heaven.”**
- **“You’re all alone. God really doesn’t care about you.”**

These voices of darkness are some of the ideas we get from people who don’t know God or don’t choose to serve him.

God’s word is a lamp to my feet

Well, God really doesn’t want us to live in darkness. So, he sent a light into the world, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, we can have a relationship with God. Through Jesus, we can know how to follow him. And how do we know about him? By reading and understanding the Bible.

It says, in Psalm 119:105, “*Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.*”

Turn on the lantern.

If I hold this lamp close to me, I can see what’s right at my feet. Even though the world may be dark around me, God’s word is a lamp to my feet. That means, wherever I am today and whatever I’m going

through now, God's word has something to say about it. God's word will help show me Jesus and how I can follow him. God's word has an answer to every one of those voices of darkness.

God's word is a light to my path

But God doesn't just give me answers for today. He gives me a direction for the future.

Just like this lantern illuminates what objects are coming up in front of me, with Jesus as my light, I can see a little bit further into my future. I can see that God has a plan for my life. I can see that God will not leave me alone. Someday I will be face-to-face with God in heaven.

Conclusion

Zaro, the Magnificent! says:

Sharpen your sword. Learn this Bible verse and remember that **God's word is a light for our situations today and our direction for the future.* Repeat this verse after me:

Leader: Your word is a lamp for my feet...

Kids: Your word is a lamp for my feet...

Leader: ...and a light for my path.

Kids: ...and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us your word, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Help us to meet you and your Son, Jesus through your word. Because of that relationship, show us that you have answers for us every day and answers for the future. Help us to depend on your word and use it as a light that guides us today and throughout our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Appendix A - Bible Verse Reference Cards

Colossians 1:11	Colossians 3:13
Romans 15:13	1 Timothy 2:4-6
Psalms 30:2	John 16:33
Matthew 28:20	Jude 20
Romans 12:12	

Appendix B – Flashlight Template

