

INTRODUCTION

Today's children are growing up in a secular culture that is increasingly intolerant of biblical Christianity. Many children don't know who the one true God is, let alone what the Bible is and why they should trust it. The Bible is the book of our faith—it is God's revelation to us so we can know Him and believe in His Son.

This first day of club establishes the Bible as the Word of God—different from any other book, inerrant and preserved throughout the centuries. Many children will not have heard why the Bible is special or why they can trust it. Through the teaching of the memory verse, Bible lesson and *Wonder Time*, children will gain a good grasp of what God's book is all about. The Evangelistic Narrative Bible lesson shows how God preserved His Word even when a wicked king sought to destroy it. This lesson, and other teaching in the club hour, lays the foundation for the concepts and lessons that will be taught in coming weeks as you introduce the children to God the Creator King who has spoken in His Word!

The following concepts should be clearly conveyed during the club hour:

- **Bible:** Inerrancy
- **Bible:** How it is different from any other book
- **Bible:** Authorship
- **Bible:** Apologetics—There are many proofs that the Bible is true
- **Quiet Time:** What it is
- **God:** Eternal—God has no beginning and is never ending

Demonstrations of the lessons and songs in this series are available at cefonline.com/freedemos/godthecreatorking



WORD UP!

"The Bible is true!"

"Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The King has a message for you!" If you lived hundreds of years ago, you might have heard something like this whenever the king wanted people to know something important. If you heard something like this, how might you respond? Show me what you would do to show you are listening. (*Act like you are listening carefully, maybe sit up straighter and put hand by ear.*) You would probably listen closely to hear the important message. For the next few weeks of club we are going to be learning about God, who is the Creator King. He gave you and me His message so we can know Him and love Him. His message is the Bible and the Bible is true! When you hear the words "Word Up!" in club today we are going to say, "**The Bible is true!**" (*Practice with children.*)

Materials

Word-Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Show the card and have the children repeat the statement: "**The Bible is true!**" Tell them that anytime you call out "Word Up!" they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when they are restless or just anytime!

If you want to add actions to the Word Up!, open hands like a book when you say "Bible." Put both thumbs up when you say "true."

Materials

Paper (one sheet per child)
Pens, pencils or crayons



SMALL GROUP TIME

"Copying a Message" (Optional activity)

(Introduce yourself to the children then have them say their names.) Today in club we are going to start learning about God, who is the Creator King! God wrote His message down for us so we can know Him and love Him. Right now we are going to practice writing and copying to learn everyone's names! Write your name at the top of your paper, then when you're done, pass your paper to the person next to you. When you get the paper, copy the name on that paper as exactly as you can then pass it on. The next person then copies what you wrote. *(Continue as time allows.)* Was that harder than you thought? Copying something exactly can be hard! Today we're going to hear about what this has to do with God's message to us.



LESSON

INTRODUCTION

(Bring several autobiographies of people the children might know or recognize. You may find these at your local library.) I brought some books today by people who wrote down their life stories. Each book is about the writer and things he has said or done. By reading these books we can learn more about these people even though we've never met them.

There is one book that we learn from in club. When we read it we get to know the author—what He is like and the things He has done and will do.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Slide 1

That book is the Bible! The Bible is the Word of God. Because of His great love for us, God gave us His Word so we can know Him and what He is like.



Who is God and what is He like? The Bible tells us! He is the Creator—He made everything in the universe, including you! Look at your fingertips. *(Do with children.)* Every person's fingerprints are different. God made you with your unique fingerprints—you are like no other person! This is just one way God tells you that you are precious to Him! Another truth about God is that He is love. *(Read 1 John 4:8b.)* God's love for you is more amazing than you can imagine! Another truth about God is that He is holy. That means He is perfect and always does what is right and good. God is also the King. Because He made the world it is His and He is in charge. God is the Creator King, He is holy and He loves you. When you look at your fingerprints you can remember God loves you! Those are just some things the Bible tells us about God and what He is like.

That is why God gave us the Bible—so we can know Him!

Preschool Help

Since many younger children have not yet learned to write, simplify this activity by having an adult write down the first letter of each child's name. Have the children say the name of each letter as it is written. Tell them that God used letters and words to give us a special message in the Bible.

Materials

Autobiographies

Preschool Help

Simplify this introduction for young children by showing several different books, including a Bible, and then tell them there is one book that is more important than all others.

Preschool Activity

There is a lot of writing described in this lesson. You may choose to have a helper dress up as a scribe and pretend to write on a scroll each time writing is mentioned.

Preschool Song

"I Believe the Bible" (v. 1)

The Bible is a very old book. Some parts are thousands of years old! How can we know the Bible we're reading today is God's true Word to us?

We know God used men's words and personalities to write down His message to the world. The Bible wasn't written down by just one person—about 40 different people wrote God's words down. It took over 1,600 years! Most of the writers didn't even know each other! But because the Bible is God's book and not men's book, every part of the Bible agrees even though the writers didn't live at the same time or in the same place.

Slide 2

Another reason we can know the Bible is true is because God preserved (kept) His Word for years and generations. Thousands of years ago, the Jews, God's chosen people, had people called scribes whose whole job was to copy God's Word over and over so none of it would be lost. They didn't have computers, paper like we have today or printing presses so they would copy God's Word onto scrolls made of animal skin (called parchment) or on Papyrus (an old type of paper). Those scrolls would eventually fall apart so they would make new ones.

The scribes were very careful when they copied God's Word. Act like you are carefully copying something with your pencil. (*Do with children.*) If they made even a tiny mistake they had to start over! When they came to God's name they even had a special way to stop and show respect to God before they copied His name. That's one way we can know the Bible is true and accurate—the scribes were very carefully copying God's Word for hundreds of years.

Slide 3

Say with me, **"The Bible is true!"** (*Say with children.*)

Another way we can be sure we have the true Word of God is that God spoke His Word to men called "prophets" who spoke for God. (*Read 2 Peter 1:21.*) God told the prophets what to write and through their words and personalities, they wrote down God's words.

Slide 4

One of those prophets was named Jeremiah and one of the scribes was named Baruch (*BAY-rook*). Jeremiah and Baruch lived in the kingdom of Judah during a very difficult time. God's people were worshipping false gods and had forgotten about the one true God. This made God very sad. As their good Father, God knew that loving and obeying Him was the best way for His people to live. If they did not turn back to Him, He would have to discipline (punish) them. God was giving these words to Jeremiah to get the people's attention.

God spoke to Jeremiah and said, "Write down these words that I tell you. I am going to punish the people because they have turned away from me. But write these words down so when they hear it my people may turn from their sin back to me." God's people did not believe God or have respect for Him or His Word.

Preschool Activity

Preschoolers would enjoy pretending to write down important things about God.

Materials

Point to "God completes the Old Testament" on Timeline
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

To help younger children and children who are visual learners, you may wish to bring a large sheet of brown paper rolled like a scroll to emphasize how large these scrolls were. Roll and unroll the scroll to show how someone would read from it.

Teacher Note

Each time before the scribes wrote "Yahweh"—God's special name—they would clean the pen being used and even cleanse their entire bodies to show reverence to God.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Have the children whisper "Baruch" several times to help them learn the name of this significant character.

Materials

Show Israel on Bible Map
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Lesson 1

Preschool Song

"I Believe the Bible" (v. 3)

Preschool Help

If you are teaching younger children, be sure to include examples of sin that they will be able to relate to such as lying, hitting or disobeying parents.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

"Mercy" word card
(See GNC Resource Pack.)



Not believing God and not having respect for God or His Word is a sin. Sin is going your own way instead of God's way. If you have thoughts like, "I don't care about God at all" or if you say, "The Bible isn't true, it's just made up stories" that is sin. Worshipping other gods besides the one true God of the Bible is also sin. (*Read Jeremiah 17:9*). Our hearts (the part of us that thinks and feels) are sinful and deceive (trick) us into not believing what God says is true. You are born sinful—you have a "want to" to go your own way. Going your own way may seem like a good idea for a while but God's true Word says going your own way instead of God's way separates you from God now and forever. You can trust what the Bible says because it is God's true Word.

Slide 5

Say with me, "**The Bible is true!**" (*Say with children.*) Not believing God and not having respect for God or His Word is sinful.

God's people did not believe Him. They had lost their respect for God and His Word. They were even worshipping other gods instead of the one true God! God wanted His people to love and obey Him and to respect His Word.

Slide 6

When God spoke to Jeremiah, Baruch wrote down the words as Jeremiah told him what God said. We don't know how much time that took, but we know Baruch was very careful as he wrote!

Slide 7

When Baruch was done writing down God's words, Jeremiah told Baruch, "go to the temple (the building where people worshipped God) and read these words. The people may turn from their sin and then God will show mercy to them."

God had given His people many, many chances to love and obey Him.

Slide 8

He was offering to show mercy to them. Say "mercy" with me. (*Say with children.*) Mercy is showing forgiveness even when someone deserves punishment. God was giving His people a chance to turn from their sin and come to Him. That is why God gave Jeremiah His words for Baruch to write down.



That is also why God gave you and me the Bible—so we can see how God shows us mercy even though we deserve punishment for our sin. The Bible tells you about your sin but it also tells you how you can be forgiven. God made a promise to the very first people that He would send a Savior—someone perfect who would take the punishment for sin once and for all. Around 600 years after Jeremiah and Baruch lived, the Savior came! Prophets like Jeremiah spoke and wrote about the coming Savior, saying, “He’s coming, and this is what He will be like!” We can read these prophecies in the Old Testament part of the Bible. In the New Testament we learn that the Savior is named Jesus. He is God’s Son who never once sinned. He was the only one who could take your punishment for sin. He allowed men to nail Him to a cross where He suffered and died. By doing this, Jesus took the punishment for sin that you and I deserve. He was buried, but on the third day He came alive again! (*Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.*) The Scriptures is another way to say God’s true Word. Just like God said, Jesus died for our sins and came back to life! He is ruling in Heaven today.

Slide 9

Say with me, “**The Bible is true!**” (*Say with children.*)

Slide 10

Because God gave us the Bible we can know how God showed us mercy by sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins!

God was showing mercy to His people by giving them His Word. He wanted them to come back to Him and turn from their sin.

Slide 11

Baruch did what Jeremiah requested and went to the temple. The people were already gathered there. Baruch read the words of God to the people. One of the men listening, Michaiah (*mie-KAY-yah*), went to where the other scribes and officials (important people in the kingdom) were gathered. He told them what Baruch had read from God’s Word. God would punish His people unless they turned back to Him.

The scribes and officials said, “We must hear this for ourselves!” They sent for Baruch and he read to them the words God had given Jeremiah. The officials and scribes were very afraid of God’s message of coming punishment and said, “We must tell King Jehoiakim (*juh-HOI-uh-kim*)!” But they had one more question for Baruch. (*Read Jeremiah 36:17-18.*) God gave the words to Jeremiah. God was speaking to His people through His Word!

Preschool Song

“I Believe the Bible” (vv. 4-5)

Materials

Point to “The Savior is born” on Timeline
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

“Mercy” word card
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Act out this portion of the story by having someone pretend to carry a scroll to the temple and read it out loud while everyone else listens carefully.

Preschool Activity

Have the children look at each other and say, “We must hear this!”

Lesson 1

Preschool Song

"I Believe the Bible" (v.1)

Preschool Activity

Preschoolers would enjoy acting out this portion of the story by pretending to hide like Jeremiah and Baruch while a helper pretends to take the scroll to the king.

Preschool Activity

Have the children shout "Please stop! Please stop!"



If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **God speaks to you through the Bible.** The Bible is God's message to you—in it you will learn what God is like. When you know more about God, the love you have for God will continue to grow. The Bible is how you can know God and how to love and obey Him. (*Read 2 Timothy 3:16.*) These verses tell some of the reasons God gave us the Bible. All the Bible was "breathed out" by God—God is the author! The Bible helps you by teaching you more about who God is, correcting you when you sin, and helping you live rightly—knowing and loving God more and more and living for Him. When you read the Bible and let God speak to you through it, you will be ready to do the work God has created you to do. This doesn't mean you will hear God's voice like you hear a parent or friend talking to you but when you've believed in Jesus as your Savior, every time you read the Bible, God the Holy Spirit can help you understand what you read. Each time you can learn something new or be reminded of something important about God! God speaks to you through His Word the Bible.

God was speaking to His people through the Word He gave to Jeremiah! After Baruch told them how God had given the words to Jeremiah, the officials and scribes said, "You and Jeremiah need to hide—you are not safe!" That's exactly what they did.

The officials took the scroll from Baruch and took it to the king's chamber. It was winter so the king had a fire going to keep warm. Rub your hands together like you are trying to keep warm. (*Do with children.*) One of the men took the scroll and started reading it to the king. But after reading just a few lines, the king did a shocking thing!

Slide 12

He took a knife and cut off the part that had just been read and threw it in the fire! Turn to your neighbor and say, "Oh no!" (*Do with children.*) The man would read a little more of God's Word and the king would cut that part off and burn it too! Several of the men there urged the king not to do this wicked thing. But the king did not listen. He continued cutting the scroll until the whole scroll Baruch had written of God's Word burned up! You would think the king and those around him would have been very afraid and ashamed of what they had just done. But they weren't. They had no respect for God or His Word. Were God's words to Jeremiah gone forever now because the king had burned them?

The king wasn't done with his wickedness. He ordered Jeremiah and Baruch to be captured. But the Bible says God hid them and protected them from the king.

After the king burned the scroll, God spoke again to Jeremiah! God said, (*read Jeremiah 36:28.*) What did God tell Jeremiah to do? (*Allow response.*) God said more things, including that He was going to punish King Jehoiakim and that none of his children would be king after him. Because the king and the people of Israel had not listened to God's Word and His offer of mercy, God would punish the people for their sin. This was a very sad message.

Jeremiah took a new scroll and gave it to Baruch. Baruch then wrote down all the same words God had given Jeremiah the first time! God even added some things to the message this time. He could do this because it is His Word and only He can add to it. God gave His Word to Jeremiah again even though the king had tried to destroy it.

CLIMAX

The paper God's Word is written on may be torn up or burned but God's Word can never be destroyed!

CONCLUSION

This is just one example of how God preserved His Word so we can have it today. God has taken care of His Word so we can know for sure it is true and accurate.

Slide 13

Say with me, **"The Bible is true!"** (*Say with children.*) The message God gave to Jeremiah is in our Bibles today in the book of Jeremiah in the Old Testament!

God gave us His Word so we can know Him—who He is and what He is like. He also gave us His Word to show us who we are and how much we need Him. 2 Timothy 3:15 says God gave us the Scriptures to make us "wise unto salvation." The Bible tells you and me that we need salvation from our sins.

INVITATION



Maybe as you've listened today you have seen God for who He is and seen yourself for who you are. That is what God's Word is for! It is powerful and unlike any other book. The Bible tells you that you have sinned but that Jesus died and came alive again so you can have your sins forgiven and be close to God. (*Read John 5:24.*) You have heard God's Word today—will you turn to Jesus and believe in Him? To believe means to trust completely in Jesus, that He is the Savior who died and rose again for you. If you believe then you will have everlasting life. That means you will be close with God here on Earth and then someday live with Him in Heaven. He will help you understand His Word so you can love Him more each day. When you believe, you will not be punished for your sin! Will you believe in Jesus as your Savior today? You can do that right now! Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to talk to me about believing in Jesus, please show me by raising your hand. (*Acknowledge responses.*) If you raised your hand, please meet me (*designate time and location*) and we will look at God's Word together and talk about how you can have everlasting life.

Preschool Activity

Have the children pretend to get a new scroll and write down the words again.

Preschool Activity

Allow the children to tear a piece of scrap paper and emphasize that even though paper can be destroyed, God's Word will last forever.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Children would enjoy seeing the book of Jeremiah in your Bible.

Important Reminder

Remember, it is not the prayer that saves the child. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit convicting the child of his or her sinful condition and drawing him or her to trust completely in Christ and His work on the cross. The prayer is the child's expression of that belief to God. (See "Guiding a Child to the Savior" on the inside front cover.)

Preschool Invitation

When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use Acts 16:31 and "believe on" terminology. Ask those who believed on Jesus during club that day or who have questions to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.