

Year 5

God is Truth 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- The Bible is the true Word of God
- Truth is one of the attributes of God. Jesus is the truth. When on earth He spoke and lived God's truth
- Christians can have confidence in the authority of God's Word
- God wants us to relate truthfully to others.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Discovering truth through the scientific method; Laws of the universe that are consistent and true: gravity and pendulums

Link between "God is Truth" and classroom topics:

God is consistent, true and unchanging, as are the laws that He established in His Creation.

Values:

honesty, fairness, respect for truth and justice; integrity

Biographies

Mary Jones; Ignatius of Loyola; Galileo Galilei

God is Truth

Week 1

Facts about the Bible

Bible reference:

Psalm 19:7-8 (Good News Bible)

The law of the Lord is perfect; it gives new strength.

The commands of the Lord are trustworthy, giving wisdom to those who lack it.

The laws of the Lord are right, and those who obey them are happy.

The commands of the LORD are just and give understanding to the mind.

They give knowledge to me, your servant; I am rewarded for obeying them.

Psalm 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect: The Lord's Word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him.

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever.

John 1: 1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

John 14:16 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

2 Tim 3:16 Scripture is God-breathed

Introduction

Ask the students what they know about the Bible. Make a list.

How the Bible is divided

The Bible is divided into two parts. Ask the students to tell you what we call those two parts, (Old and New Testaments).

The word 'testament' has two meanings:

- 1) A Testament is a free gift from one person to another, and
- 2) An agreement between two persons in which they make promises to each other.

Both these meanings apply in the 'Old Testament' and the 'New Testament': God makes a free gift available to people, and God and people make promises to each other.

1. The Old Testament tells the long story of God's goodness to His people and of their agreement to be faithful to Him because He is faithful to them.
2. The New Testament tells the story of God's continued goodness in giving His best gift, the gift of Jesus Christ, and of how men can take that gift, and be so changed by Him and so grateful to Him that they agree to serve Him in loyalty and faithfully all their lives.

Questions:

1. Which was written first? (*Old Testament*)
2. Which people group is the Old Testament mostly about? (*Hebrews/ Israelites /Jews*).
3. How did the people who wrote the Bible get their ideas (*They recorded real event, or what God showed them.*)

The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language, and the New Testament was written in the Greek language. Not all the Old Testament or the New Testament was written at the same time. It took more than a thousand years from when the first part of the Old Testament was written down until the New Testament was finished.

What does God say about the Bible?

The Bible is also called 'God's Word'. The first five books are called "God's law" and were written by Moses.

Read Psalm 19:7 -8

Make a list of facts about God's Word from this Psalm.

Verse 7: perfect, (without mistake); it gives us strength. How? Trustworthy – every word from God is true; gives wisdom. What is wisdom?

Verse 8: right – it can never be wrong; just – all God's commands are fair

More facts about the Bible (Revision from the "God is Creator" Term 2)

The Bible is made up of many books, rather than one book that you read from the beginning to the end. The Bible is a library made up of a variety of books written over a long period of time.

Ask the students to look at the Bible index. There are 66 books written by approximately 36 different people over a period of approximately 1600 years.

Some books of the Bible were written a long time before Jesus Christ (BC), and some not long after the time of Christ (AD), but still a long time before our present time.

Briefly revise the categories of books:

1. Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
2. History (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther)
3. Poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs)
4. Prophecy (Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

The New Testament is also divided into four sections:

1. Gospels (Matthew Mark, Luke, John)
2. Early church History (Acts)
3. Letters to (Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John, Jude.
4. Prophecy Revelation

Ways in which the Bible was written:

Clay tablets: (the method used by the civilization in the dry climate around the River Euphrates).

Marks were made on wet clay with a piece of wood. This piece, of wood was about the size of a pencil, but instead of being round it was wedge-shaped. When the wet clay dried in the hot sun, it became very hard and lasted for a long time. Many clay tablets have lasted for a long time. Many clay tablets have lasted until now and can still be read.

Scrolls: The Egyptians cut reeds (like pandanus) on the banks of the River Nile. From the middle of the reed they stripped off long white pieces which they stuck together in a criss-cross pattern to make a sheet. This was called 'papyrus' and from this comes our word 'paper'. The sheets of papyrus were stuck together to make a long roll. The news or story was written on this scroll which was then rolled up. Scrolls were used in Jesus time (Luke 4:16, 17). Scrolls are still used in Jewish synagogues. They are most beautifully written by hand, and kept in cloth covers, richly embroidered and often have small bells attached to the end which tinkle when they are brought out of the cupboard to be read in Jewish worship.



The Bible and Jesus tell us the truth about God

All religions have their 'holy books' or sacred texts that teach them what God is like. The Christian's holy book is the Bible, containing both the Old and New Testaments.

One reason why Christians say the Bible *is* true is because they have tried out its view of life and found it works. (Share a personal testimony here.)

The Bible tells us about Jesus, who was also called by the Apostle John 'The Word' because He not only said what God said, but also lived a life of truth in the way God said humans should live (John 1: 1-3).

Jesus showed us the truth about God and He described himself as 'the way, the truth and the Life' (John 14:16).

Discuss:

Discuss the meaning of John 14:6. (Jesus is the only way to God).

When we follow Jesus, or say we belong to him, we must be people who are finding out truth from the Bible, and are truthful people to each other. That way we shall live a life that is free and truthful.

God is Truth

Week 2

The word of God in our hearts

Bible references

Psalm 119:105 God's Word is a lamp to my feet
Matthew 13:1-23 The parable of the Sower

Introduction

Show the students a torch and ask them why a torch is useful.
When is it most useful? (In the dark)
A torch guides us helps us find our way in the dark.

Read Psalm 119:105.

We can say that because of sin entering the world when Adam and Eve sinned, our world is in darkness....Darkness is a symbol for sin and suffering. Light is a symbol for things that are right and true. God's Word is like a light that guides us through a world of darkness.

But if we want God's light to guide us, there is something we have to do. That is, to invite Jesus to be our guide through life and to do what God says to do in His Word.

The Sower and the Seed

Read the parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-10, then 18-23)

Draw four large squares on the blackboard or a large sheet of paper. Draw the types of soil and the seeds as you read the story.

The seed is the Word of God.

The path was like hard-hearted people. The seed can't sink into their hearts and Satan comes quickly and takes God's message away. These people can't remember the message so they can't do what God is telling them to do.

The shallow ground had very little soil covering the hard rock. The seeds sprouted in the soil, but when the sun came up, the young plants dried out, so a gust of wind blew them away. This soil is like people who are happy to hear God's Word preached, and they say 'Yes' to God's invitation to receive Jesus, have their sins forgiven, and lead a new life. But they expect that being a Christian means they will never again have any troubles, and the Bible doesn't promise that. The Bible says that we will still have trouble, sickness, hardship like anyone else, perhaps even more than other people if we are determined to live for Jesus. 'Shallow ground' people are easily discouraged when hard times come, and they just get sad and give up.

Sometimes when students are faced with a hard task to do, they also give up. Jesus wants us to listen when His Word is being taught so that it can go deep into our hearts. Everybody can start well, but God is looking for good finishers. What sort of person are we? A good starter and poor finisher, or a good starter and a better finisher!

'Thorn bush' ground was good soil, so good in fact that all the plants wanted to grow there, including the thorn bushes. The farmer didn't weed all the thorns away, and gradually they grew up and sheltered the farmer's plants from the life-giving sun and rain. They also choked the plants at their roots, so the plants grew up but they were very weak and sickly looking and didn't produce anything for the farmer to harvest. Some people appear to be

very interested in God's Word. They go to Sunday school and church, and do work in the church. But other things are very important to them too, like being important in the eyes of others, and being wealthy, and these things become more important than obeying God. Their hearts are so crowded with all these things that the fruits God wants to see growing, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control (Gal5:22). These are the Fruit of the Spirit

The Good soil was deep and free of weeds. A single seed produced 30 or 60 or even 100 more seeds. From this soil the happy farmer reaped a great harvest that fed his family. This 'good soil' is like people who hear God's Word, understand what God is saying, and say "yes" to everything God tells them to do, even if it is not what they want to do. They grow up to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful humble people who are in control of themselves. They inspire other people to become Christians because of their good example.

God is Truth

Week 3

Telling the truth and living truthfully

Bible references

John 8:22 You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man that He should lie.

Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira

Leviticus 19:11 Do not steal. "Do not lie. "Do not deceive one another.

What is Truthfulness?

Ask the students for ideas and make a list.

Truthfulness is being honest in your words and actions. Read John 3:21 and discuss 'living the truth.'

- You don't tell lies, even to protect yourself from getting into trouble.
- You don't listen to gossip and prejudice.
- You see with your own eyes and make up your own mind about what is true.
- Being true to yourself means being who and what you are, without exaggerating
- You don't try to impress others or try to look like something you are not.
- It is being yourself, your true self.

The opposite of truth is lying.

God never lies (Numbers 23:19). Lies come from the enemy of God, Satan.

What does the Bible say about lying?

Read Leviticus 19:11

Read the story of Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:1-11

What dishonest thing did they do?

What should have they done?

What were the consequences?

What does Jesus say about truth?

John 8:22

Who is the truth?

Why practice Truthfulness?

- Without truthfulness, no one can tell if someone is lying or telling the truth.
- We couldn't trust anyone. They might be telling the truth but they might be telling a made-up story.
- They get imagination mixed up with reality.
- When people are truthful, they say what they mean, and mean what they say.
- Truthfulness builds trust. People know where they stand with a truthful person.

How do you practice Truthfulness?

- Always choose to tell the truth. If someone asks your opinion, give it tactfully!
- When you make a mistake, admit it rather than trying to cover it up.
- Instead of listening to gossip, find out the truth for yourself.
- Recognize the difference between fantasy and reality. If you start telling a story that becomes exaggerated with deliberate errors or fibs ("loose with the truth"), stop and tell what really happened.
- Let people see you as you are, without trying to look more important. You are truly worthy just as you are.

What would truthfulness look like if ...

- Someone tells you that your best friend is saying mean things about you and decides not to be your friend anymore?
- You find yourself making excuses to cover up a mistake?
- You feel like exaggerating how well you did in a sport event?
- A friend asks you what you think of the strange outfit he is wearing?
- Someone makes a bad comment about all people of a different race?
- You feel like making up a horrible story to scare your little sister?

Signs of Success

Congratulations! You are practicing truthfulness when you

- Speak only the truth
- Practice justice by investigating the truth for yourself
- Don't let others tell you what to think
- Can tell the difference between fact and fantasy
- Admit it when you have made a mistake
- Know you are enough -- don't exaggerate or deceive to impress others

Summary:

To be truthful is to:

Speak the truth

See and understand truth

Not impress others or exaggerate

Be content to be my true self

Discussion:

1. What would it feel like to have a good friend tell you a lie?
2. What does the liar feel like after telling a lie?
3. Why do we sometimes try to exaggerate what we do or what we have?
4. How does truthfulness help our relationships?
5. What are some things you truly care about?
6. What would you do or say if someone began gossiping or saying prejudiced things in front of you?