



God's Word Guides Us

3

Key Theme

- God's Word is the foundation for our lives.

Key Passages

- Psalm 119:105; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Proverbs 30:5

Lesson Focus

- God never lies



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—God's Word is always true and beneficial to us in all areas of our lives. We can trust God to guide us because He is unchangeable and unable to lie.

Song—Children hold hands and walk in a circle while singing the God Can't Lie song from the Flip Chart song page. If time permits, sing the Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse song.



Activity 1: Trust Me

Students will take turns being led around the room blindfolded following a path with obstacles such as chairs and pillows.



Activity 2: Bible Path

Students will follow the Bibles along the path to get to the Truth.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Gather enough play dough for each student.

- Play dough
- Plastic spoons or knives



CIRCLE TIME

- Bring a stuffed animal for prayer time.
- Gather a map to bring in for illustration during the lesson.
- Gather a flashlight to bring to class for illustration during the lesson.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Map
- Flashlight



TRUST ME

- Before class begins, set up chairs and other obstacles around the classroom.

- Blindfold
- Pillows and step stool
- Chairs
- Masking tape



BIBLE PATH

- Print one Bible Path Maze from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Bible Path Maze for each student
- Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare your heart and mind, study these passages: 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18.

In His second letter to Timothy, Paul stated, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). The Bible is the inspired (“breathed out”) Word of God, transmitted not by the will of man, but through holy men of God as they were directed by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20–21). These men, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote without error all that God instructed. It is the only inerrant, infallible Word of God and we can trust it to guide us in all things.

How does it guide us? Paul tells us that it is useful for doctrine—teaching Christian beliefs; reproof—telling us when we are wrong; correction—showing us how to correct our wrong actions; and instruction in righteousness—teaching us how to obey God (2 Timothy 3:16–17). These are the general guidelines—they are expounded on again and again throughout the Bible.

God has spoken to reveal His plan for history, His purpose for mankind, and His will for us. More than 2,000 times the Old Testament states, “Thus says the Lord,” or something similar, claiming that God Himself is the author. In the New Testament we observe that Jesus preached the Word of God (Luke 5:1), the early church preached the Word of God (Acts 4:31), the Word of God was preached to the Gentiles (Acts 11:1), and Paul preached the Word of God throughout all of his missionary journeys (Acts 13:5, 18:11, 19:10).

The Word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12), given to us by God Himself—to teach us the principles of our faith, to reveal our sin, to show us how to deal with sin, to instruct us how to live in a manner that pleases Him, and ultimately, to reveal to us how we can be redeemed into everlasting life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—the lamb slain before the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As Christians, we believe by faith that God’s Word is His true revelation to us and the foundation upon which we base our lives. Consequently, we have no need to “prove” its authenticity to others. We know that God’s Holy Spirit prompted select men to write the words of Scripture, and these words are inspired by a God who cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18).

However, we would expect a book that came from God to meet certain criteria, including historical, prophetic, and scientific accuracy; a tone of authority; and a life-changing message.

Having said that, we can offer the following evidences to skeptics who ask us why we believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God.

The Scriptures themselves proclaim to be God’s Word and true as noted above (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:21; Hebrews 1:1–2).

The Bible’s message contains life-changing power. It transforms sinners into new creatures by the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Neither man nor Satan has been able to destroy God’s Word—. . . but the word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8).

Archaeological finds continue to confirm biblical truth. A renowned Jewish archaeologist once claimed, “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.” Nelson Glueck, *Rivers in the Desert* (New York: Farrar, Strous, and Cudahy, 1959), p. 136.

The books of the Bible were written over a period of 1,600 years by 40 authors (from very different walks of life), writing in different places, times, moods, on different continents, in three languages, covering hundreds of controversial subjects—and yet they present absolute harmony from beginning to end.

Old Testament passages give more than 50 prophecies of the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ; and every prophecy (written over 400 years before His birth) came true.

For those of us with faith to believe, these findings serve as confirmation that we worship a mighty God who does not change. He speaks to us through the consistently preserved Scriptures so we can know Him, His character, His purpose, and His plan to redeem a people to Himself for all eternity.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Bible is God’s very Word to us. It will guide us through everything we encounter as we rely on it (Proverbs 30:5–6; Psalm 73:24, 19:133; 2 Peter 1:3). Because of this promise, His Word has been precious to believers throughout history. It has been copied and translated more than any other book, as it continues to guide people around the world.

The Greek Septuagint translation of the Old Testament was used, along with hand-written manuscripts of the New Testament gospels and epistles,

in the early church. However, as the gospel spread, it became important to provide the Scriptures in other languages.

In 405 AD Jerome translated the Old and New Testaments from the original Hebrew and Greek into Latin. This became known as the Vulgate. This text was understood only by the elite, most of whom were priests. They were determined to keep the Bible from the ordinary people. Translation into common languages was discouraged and often severely prohibited.

Beginning in the 14th century a new desperation developed to make the Scriptures available to the common man. For too long the Roman church had shackled the Scriptures—but they were about to be unleashed. God’s Word would not be restrained—He intended for it to guide us through life.

Following represents some of the history of the Bible and when it became available.

- c. 1400 BC—The first written Word of God—the Ten Commandments.
- c. 500 BC—Original Hebrew Manuscripts completed.
- 1st century AD—All original Greek manuscripts of the New Testament were completed.
- 1382—The Wycliffe Bible; a middle English translation from the Latin Vulgate.
- 1526—The Tyndale Bible; a modern English translation from the original Greek and Hebrew.
- 1534—Martin Luther’s German Bible is published from the Greek.
- 1539—The Great Bible; the first English translation to be authorized for public use; commissioned by Henry VIII.

- 1560—The Geneva Bible; the first study Bible published and the first English language Bible to include numbered verses to each chapter.
- 1611—The King James Bible was printed and became the main primary Bible of the English language for the next 300 years.

Today, the Bible continues to be the most translated book in the world. As of 2005, portions of the Bible had been translated into 2,400 languages. God is continuing to guide us with His Word as He continues to make His Word available to every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5:9).

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord, thank you for the precious treasure of your Word. How I long to know it better and know you better. Please forgive me for the laziness and indifference I so often demonstrate toward Bible study. Help me Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to convey to the children in my class a love for your Word. Use your Word to lead them to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior through faith—a faith that can only come by hearing your Word. Make me genuinely enthusiastic about this lesson and allow that enthusiasm to ignite in the hearts of these precious children.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will flatten out their play dough and take the plastic spoons or other play dough accessories to make a road. Talk to the children about how God's Word guides us if we follow and obey Him just like the road guides us as we drive.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your Flip Chart, Bible, map, flashlight, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

After the children are situated in the circle, say:

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way.

Today let's say prayers of confession—and tell God we are sorry for something wrong we have done.

I'll start. Dear God, I am so sorry . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their own confidence in praying to God.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of confession.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

? **Before we begin, what is this?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*

? **What is in this Bible?** *God's Holy Word!*

? **What does the Bible tell us?** *Everything we need to know!*

? **And all God's words in this Bible are what?** *True!*

I have this Bible in my lap; I use it just like a map. God's Word guides me as I go; His command is what I know.

? **Do you know what a map is?** *Show a local map. Allow for discussion.*

? **Have you ever seen your dad or mom use a map? Or have you ever been on a hike? Have you ever had to follow a path through the woods?** *Allow for answers.*

We use our maps and pathways in the woods so we won't get lost, right? And at night, we use flashlights or headlights on our cars so we can see where we are going. *Bring in a flashlight. Turn the lights off. Turn the flashlight on. It lights our way.*

? **Did you know that God's Word is like that?** *No!*

? **What does the Bible tell us?** *Lift up the Bible. This is one of the questions you ask before every class begins. If they don't know the answer yet, you can remind them. Everything we need to know!*

That's right! It teaches us everything we need to know. It tells us to be kind to one another and to share our things. It tells us to obey our moms and dads and to always tell the truth. It tells us about God and Jesus! It tells us everything we need to know. It can act as a light for our path by showing us the way we should go. *Refer to the Flip Chart. Turn the flashlight on.*

I want to read this verse to you. It talks about God's Word. I want you to tell me what it says. Listen carefully. *Read Psalm 119:105*

► As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

► Use the flashlight throughout the rest of the lesson as appropriate.

? What does the Bible say about God's Word? *It is a lamp or a light to our path. Use the flashlight.*

Psalm 119:105

? We can trust the Bible. We can believe everything it says. Do you know why we can trust the Bible? *Allow for answers.*

We can trust it and believe it because God cannot lie. Everything He says is always true! Listen to what the Bible tells us about that. Listen carefully! *Open your Bible. Read Titus 1:2 emphasizing that God cannot lie.*

Titus 1:2

? Did you hear that? What did it say about God? *God cannot lie.*

That's right. God cannot lie. Everything God tells us in this Bible is true!

? Have you ever lied? *Yes.*

When we don't tell the truth, it is called a lie. But God never lies. He never has and He never will. We can trust God's Word to be true! His Word will light our path and show us how to live. *Turn the flashlight on.*

Let me read part of this verse. It is in Hebrews. *Turn to Hebrews in your Bible. Read Hebrews 6:18 from your Bible, "... it is impossible for God to lie."*

Hebrews 6:18a

? What does this verse tell us? Listen! *Reread Hebrews 6:18 from your Bible. "... it is impossible for God to lie." God can't lie!*

That's right. God can't lie, He always tells the truth.

God always stays the same and God cannot lie, we can always trust His words. The Bible will guide us. It will show us how to live. It's like a light to our path. This reminds me of our memory verse. Let's all read it together!

Proverbs 30:5

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse page and "read" the verse with the children.

? Every word of God is what? *Pure!*

The Word of God is pure. It is perfect. Because it is pure and perfect, we know it must be true. And we know it must be true because God can't lie!

We can use the Bible to guide us every day. It is like a light to our path. Every word in this book, the Bible, is from God. He wrote the Bible. He can't lie! God's Word is good for us! It guides us and helps us to know right from wrong. It tells us about Jesus and God! It is like a light for us—guiding us and helping us find the way.

➤ If you like, have some children take turns standing in the middle while the others walk around them. You can also sing the "Proverbs 30:5 Memory Verse" song if time allows.

➤ Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning.

SONG

Very good! Everybody up! We are going to sing a new song and play a little game! As we sing this song, we will join hands and walk around in a circle.

The lyrics to "God Can't Lie" are on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide and on the song page of the Flip Chart.



Trust Me

Ok, let's go back to our tables and sit down. We are going to play a game. This is a game of trust. We can always trust God's Word to guide us because we know that God can't lie. He always tells the truth. In this game, a friend will guide you through our path around the room. There are some obstacles along the way, but you won't see them because you will have a blindfold on. The blindfold will cover your eyes so you can't see! You must trust your friend to bring you safely through the path **without bumping into anything.** *Some children can be the guide, and some children can be blindfolded. Depending on the age of the children, the teacher may need to be the guide. Allow several or all of the children to participate. You may want to sing the new song as the child is escorted safely along the path.*

MATERIALS

- Blindfold
- Pillows or step stool
- Chair
- Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Set up a path using the pillows, step stool, chairs, etc. that you have brought in or have handy in the room. Mark the path with the masking tape. Blindfold the first volunteer. If appropriate, assign a "guide." If children are too young, you or your assistant can be the guide. Escort the children safely through the obstacle course.

Who wants to go first? Let's cover your eyes with a blindfold, making sure it won't come off during our game. Guide, gently lead your friend through the path, avoiding the objects in the way by going around them or telling your friend to step over the object. Remember, he/she is trusting you!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God can't lie. His Word is pure and perfect. Everything He says is true. We can trust God's Word because He can't lie. We can trust the Bible to guide us every day. His Word is like a light to our path. It tells us about God and Jesus. It tells us everything we need to know!



Bible Path

We just followed a path through the room. Now let's go to the table and follow a Bible path on paper. I want you to connect the Bibles along the pathway. Remember, God's Word, the Bible will light our path and guide us.

MATERIALS

- One Bible Path sheet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Follow the Bibles along the path to get to the TRUTH.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God never lies. Everything God says in the Bible is true and trustworthy. When we allow God's Word to guide our lives, we will always find the truth.

- ? How many times did you use the Bible to find the truth on this path? Let's count them! *Have children count the Bibles along the path.*



Memory Verse/Snack

Proverbs 30:5 Every Word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Sing the song with them. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try to say it on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God has given us His Word. His Word is pure, perfect, and true. God cannot lie. The Bible will guide our path and help us to love and obey God.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The Bible tells us everything we need to know. It tells us about God and Jesus. Some people don't believe the Bible. But we know it is true because God can't lie! His Word can guide us for the rest of our lives. It will always light our path and help us along the way.

Did you know that when you pray, God already knows what you need? Let's talk to God now.

GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Thank God for sending His Son Jesus.
- Praise God for His true Word.
- Ask God to give us understanding to obey His Word.

Do you still have more time? Review the past lessons using the Flip Chart, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

Song Sheet

GOD CAN'T LIE

(To the tune of "Do you Know the Muffin Man?")

Get in a circle. Hold hands and go around as you sing.

Do you know that God can't lie?

(Do you know the muffin man?)

God can't lie. God can't lie.

(The muffin man, the muffin man.)

Do you know that God can't lie?

(Do you know the muffin man,)

God's Word is always true!

(Who lives on Drury Lane?)

Stop. Start singing and switch directions in the circle.

Do you know that God can't lie?

God can't lie. God can't lie.

Do you know that God can't lie?

His Word will light the way!

PROVERBS 30:5 MEMORY VERSE

(To the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush")

Proverbs 30:5! (Shout!)

Every word of God is pure,

(Here we go round the mulberry bush,)

Stand up when saying "God is pure."

God is pure, (The mulberry bush,)

Sit down when saying "God is pure."

God is pure. (The mulberry bush.)

Stand up when saying "God is pure."

He is a shield to those who put,

(Here we go round the mulberry bush,)

Put your arm out in front of your body like a hook.

Who put their trust in Him.

(So early in the morning,)

Point finger up.

Proverbs 30:5! (Shout!)

