

We Are Here to Make Much of Jesus

The Gospel Project: Unit 35 Session 6

1 Thessalonians 4-5

Midweek Bible Study

Week of July 6th, 2025

Christ Connection: Christians have a special purpose to spread the good news of Jesus and to live in a way that honors Him. We live holy lives, loving one another and finding joy in Jesus as we remember God's promise to one day return and make all things right.

Memory Verse: PS: Lord, I will praise Your name. Isaiah 25:1; Elem: Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Spiritual Discipline: Bible Study

Leader Bible Study: Think about your daily schedule. Are you an early riser? Do you prefer to stay up until midnight? Or maybe you hit your productivity peak in the middle of the day. Your day is probably pretty busy, like most people. There are jobs, chores, friends, family, church, rest, exercise, and lots more.

The most common excuse we hear for not studying the Bible is lack of time. We pack our schedules with work, meetings, classes, social gatherings, sports, and more often than not, endless scrolling or zoning out on some form of electronics. If you are having a hard time finding a moment in your day to study the Word, what is something that can be shortened or eliminated to make time for Bible study? The commitments, responsibilities, and hobbies we have in life are great; God gave us relationships and the earth to

enjoy, but not at the expense of missing out on time to meditate on His Word and grow as a disciple of Him.

If you find this to be a struggle in your life, here are some ways you can work time with God into your schedule. For one week dedicate only five minutes per day to reading the Bible. After a week, add in five minutes of prayer to your five minutes of reading. During the third week, you can add in five minutes of journaling. At the end of three weeks you will have worked your way up to 15 minutes of being in God's Word and applying it to your life.

The reality is that time is a struggle for the kids we lead, too. They feel the strains of busy days and packed schedules. And again, the commitments they are involved in are good! But when we choose an activity and forsake time with God, we're missing the point of life: to know God and be known by God. WE want to show kids that while spending time in God's Word might initially feel like a sacrifice, it ultimately will grow into a source of great joy.

This week, we will discuss how studying the Bible can show us how to live a life pleasing to God. Take some time to seek wisdom from God on what you can adjust or clear from your schedule to spend time with Him. Ask that He would help you influence others to do the same.

Welcome

Sing Songs

The Floor is Lava

Materials: random objects

Lay out objects on the ground such as hula hoops, floor dots, and pieces of construction paper. Let the kids wander around until you say "The floor is lava." Then count down from five, at which point the kids must be standing on an object by the time you finish counting. Kids can share the same object by trying to all stand in one hula

hoop or everyone trying to put one foot on the piece of paper. Anyone who doesn't make it in time has to sit out for one turn. You can make the game harder by giving a specific color for them to stand on and saying "The floor is lava...purple!"

What's On My Back?

Materials: index cards with one book of the Bible printed on each one, tape

Tape a card to the back of each kid. Challenge the kids to put themselves in order by the books on their backs, without telling the other kids which book is taped to their back. To make it easier, just challenge them to organize themselves based on whether the books are in the Old or New Testament. For an added challenge, ask kids to put themselves in the correct order without speaking at all.

Match It!

Materials: 2 sets of index cards with one book of the Bible printed on each one

Mix up the cards and lay them out in a grid. Encourage the kids to take turns flipping over two cards at a time. If the cards match, then they keep the pair and get to take another turn. If the cards don't match, then it becomes the next kid's turn. The kid with the most pairs at the end of the game wins.

Change Places If...

Materials: none

Direct everyone to stand in a circle. Explain that you will say statements starting with "Change places if..." and then finish with an action or description, such as "Change places if you've flown on a

plane.” If kids have done that, they will run to a new spot in the circle. You can also invite kids to take turns picking out statements.

[Learn About Bible Study](#)

Review Spiritual Disciplines

Materials: none

Ask, ***“How would you explain what a spiritual discipline is?”***

Say, ***“A spiritual discipline is a practice, or repeated action, that helps us grow in love for God and godliness. This week, we are going to talk about the spiritual discipline of Bible study.”***

Group Demonstration: Pour Into Others

Materials: plant, water jug

Bring everyone around a table and say that you want to show them a plant. Discuss the things plants need to grow and thrive (soil, water, sun, plant food).

Say, ***“Oh! That reminds me, I need to water my plant! (Try to water the plant with an empty jug, until the kids ask what you’re doing.) Am I actually doing anything for these plants? This jug is empty! What do you think I should do? (Allow responses.) (Fill up the jug and actually water the plant.) This may have been a silly example, but it can remind us of a truth from the Bible. When we don’t take time to study God’s Word, it’s going to be difficult for us to encourage others or make the choices God wants us to make. We’re pouring from an empty jug! When we take the time to learn from God’s Word and meditate on the truth we find within it, then we are better able to pour into the lives of others.”***

Review the Discipline of Bible Study

Materials: none

Say, ***“Today we are going to study the benefits of studying God’s Word. We have talked before about how the Bible is our foundation; it gives us wisdom, it guides our steps, it shows us the gospel, and it shows us who God is. These are all important truths! Today we are going to talk about the importance of hiding God’s Word in our hearts. That might make you think of your physical heart, the one pumping blood through your body. But in this instance, we’re talking about our spiritual heart. We memorize Scripture so that we can be ready when temptation comes, be prepared to encourage others during a difficult time, and so that we can be reminded of the truths of God and the goodness of His plan for us.***

Memorizing Bible verses isn’t a competition. We’re not trying to see who can remember the most verses or the longest verse. Instead, when we memorize God’s Word, they begin to act as a filter through which we see and understand the world. We begin to see people, situations, and trials like God does. It’s important to memorize Scripture so that we can have the truth ready at any moment, in any conversation, and whenever someone needs biblical encouragement- even you!”

Read the Bible

Materials: Bibles

Read Joshua 1:8. Encourage kids to find the verse in their Bible.

Say, ***“Joshua was a prophet who came after Moses. Though we do not know who wrote the words of the book of Joshua, we do know that the words were inspired by God. We know this because they are in the Bible, and every word in the Bible is inspired by God. Who can read and tell me what the Bible***

promises will happen when we keep God's words on our lips day and night?"

Ask, ***"What is the commandment in this verse?"***

Say, ***"That's right, we're instructed to always remember the words that are written in the Bible. And not only that, but we're instructed to think about them, meditate on them, and obey them day and night."***

Ask, ***"What does the last part of the verse say will happen if we follow these instructions?"***

Say, ***"Yes, we will live a prosperous life for God. Now don't get confused. This does not promise that we will have a lot of money, a big house, or a fancy car. It means that we will live a life worthy of the calling we have received as followers of Christ. We will live full lives knowing that God is our Creator and Jesus is our Savior. The Bible holds the best, most important truths we can learn! And when we study the Bible and live as God wants us to, then we can trust that His plan will come about in our lives."***

Group Game: Tangled Verse

Materials: yarn

Lead kids to circle up. Practice saying Joshua 1:8 several times. Give one kid a ball of yarn. That kid will hold the end of the yarn, while throwing the ball to another kid. When the first kid throws it, they will say the first word of Joshua 1:8. The second kid will then hold on to a piece of yarn while throwing the rest of the ball to another kid and saying the second word of the verse. Continue until kids say the whole verse and a spider web has formed with every kid holding onto a piece of yarn. See if the kids can say Joshua 1:8

again, this time throwing the ball in the reverse order to undo the web.

Say, ***“That was fun! And we all heard the verse several times, so we are well on our way to memorizing it. We can play games like that to help us hide God’s Word in our heart.”***

Christ Connection

Materials: Bible

Say, ***“We memorize God’s Word because He has instructed us to. He knows that is one way that we can live the life He desires for us. But we also memorize God’s Word because Jesus did, and we want to follow His example.”***

Read Matthew 4:1-11.

Say, ***“In these verses, we see that Jesus was being tempted by the devil. But instead of giving in to the temptation, Jesus recited Scripture from Deuteronomy. Jesus also studied Scripture and hid it in His heart. Even though Jesus was tempted, He never sinned. He lived the perfect life so that we can have a relationship with God the Father.”***

[Love God by Practicing Bible Study](#)

Stained Glass

Materials: cellophane, tissue paper squares, scissors, glue sticks, craft sticks (4 per child), flashlight

Show kids how to cut out pieces of tissue paper and glue them onto the cellophane. Once the cellophane is covered in tissue paper, distribute four craft sticks to each kid and help them create a frame around the stained glass. Once everyone is finished, take out a

flashlight and dim the light in the room. Shine the flashlight through everyone's "stained glass" to remind them that we can let God's Word be a filter through which we see the world, like the light filters through the stained glass.

Key Chain

Materials: string, decorative beads, letter beads, key chain clips

Help the kids knot one side of the string. Pick a Bible verse and put the first letter of each word in the verse on the string. For example, John 3:16 (NIV) would be FGSLTWTGHGHOAOSSTWBIHSNPBHEL. Finish off the key chain with another knot and tie it to a key chain clip. Encourage kids to put the key chains on their backpacks as a way to start conversations about God's Word.

Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Challenge kids to memorize one new Bible verse this week and share it with three people.

Close in Prayer

Materials: none

Use the scripted prayer below, pray in your own words, or ask a student to pray.

Say, ***"God, help us lead a life that is pleasing to You. We admit that sometimes it is easy to let our minds be filled with the things of this world. Help fill our minds with godly words and wisdom. We ask that through studying the Bible and meditating on Your words, others would come to see who You are. Amen."***

