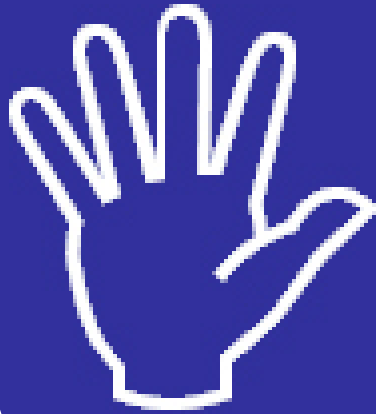


Teaching Children to love God's Word



Bible Kids



Scripture Lesson Pack 2004/05

Project India. Includes helpful hints to get you involved.

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland



Bible Kids

Introduction

Using the 'Bible Kids' Pack

Teaching children to Love God's Word

The 'Bible Kids' lesson is designed to help you teach your children the importance of Scripture in their lives. The stories within demonstrate how children in other parts of the world are learning to love God's Word, experiencing the life-changing reality of it in their lives.

The Pack can be used effectively in assembly, a classroom or with a church group.

At the Bible Society in Northern Ireland we believe that Scripture holds a vital message for all people and for that reason we believe everyone should be able to access it in their own language.

Bible Societies work in over 200 countries, providing Scripture for people who often cannot afford to purchase anything other than the basics for survival.

It would be wonderful if children here could show their love for God's Word by taking part in the 'Bible Kids' project to help the *Telugu* speaking children of India.

Many children are living in very different situations than we are.

- Some children are hungry in school because they have very little food to eat.
- Others don't go to school, instead they have to work because their parents are very poor.
- Some children do not have parents and live in group homes or have no home to live in.
- Millions of children have never heard any words from the Bible.



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Bible Kids around the World

Children who Love God's Word



Peru

Alvaro lives with his mum and his sister in Lima, the capital city of Peru. A lot of poor people live in Lima, some are so poor that they don't have three meals a day. The Bible Society and churches got together and decided to start a breakfast project which they called 'Bread of Life'. Alvaro goes to the 'Bread of Life' project 5 days a week, where he receives some bread and milk to help him grow strong and healthy.



Alvaro, Lima

Alvaro's mum makes sandwiches and takes them out in her basket to sell to people in the city at lunch time. She doesn't make enough money to feed Alvaro and his sister very well, so the 'Bread of Life' project is really helpful.

As well as getting his tummy filled, Alvaro has been learning about God's love for him because the Bible Society provides Scripture for the children to read and take home to their families.

The Words of Scripture have been making an impact in Alvaro's life and he has been able to see other Christians helping him in the way the Bible says they should.

This is a great project that gives Alvaro food and teaching from the Word of God.

Cambodia

When **Luka** was seven years old his mother died. His father was not interested in caring for him and left him with his grandmother. But she did not want Luka either and did everything she could to give him into someone else's care. She even tried selling him twice.

He was passed from person to person until, at the age of eight, Luka found himself in the Good Samaritan Orphanage. Not surprisingly, he found it difficult to trust people and he was very sad. He had always had problems with lying and stealing so people didn't trust him either!

Like the other children in the orphanage, Luka has been introduced to the Bible, hearing stories about Jesus during daily devotions, and learning to read them for himself. Gradually he gave up his mistrust and opened his heart to the love of God. His sad look has been replaced by a sensitive, smiley face and he no longer steals and tells lies.

Luka has found a new family and most importantly he has come to understand that God loves him.

Sing a hymn to fit with Luka's story.

'What a Friend We Have in Jesus' (Mission Praise 746) shows that even our friends can forsake us but God will always love us.

'Let there be Love Shared Among us' (Mission Praise 411) encourages us to love one another.



Luka, Cambodia



A Word for us

A Lesson Plan

Read the stories of Alvaro and Luka on the previous page.

- List all the food you eat in one day. How would you like to eat bread and milk just once or twice a day, like Alvaro?
- How do you think Luka felt when his grandmother tried to sell him?

Alvaro and Luka have both come to know how important the Bible is. They have learnt lots about God by listening to the Bible being read and learning to read it for themselves.



You will have heard the Bible being read if you have ever been to a church, or you may have heard it being read in school assembly. You may even have your own Bible that you read at home. Like Alvaro and Luka, you can learn about God by reading the Bible.

The words of the Bible can help people who are struggling with problems.

- It can bring hope to someone who feels like giving up. (Philippians 4:4-8. God tells us not to worry, He will bless us with peace.)
- It can show God's love to someone who feels unloved. (Luke ch 17 vs 11-19. Story of 10 outcasts who came to Jesus. Also shows importance of giving thanks.)
- It can reassure someone that God is with them when they feel alone. (Isaiah ch 41 vs 10 & 13. God says He is with us.)

There are also wonderful stories in the Bible of people who trusted God and found that He gave them the help they needed. (The stories of Daniel and Ruth, found in the Old Testament, are great examples of the faith people place in God).

In the New Testament, **Jesus** used stories to teach lessons to His followers and other listeners.

- Read the well-known story of 'The Good Samaritan' from Luke chapter 10 verses 25-37 to see what Jesus has to say about loving and helping people. Act the story out with a group of friends.

An important Book

The Bible is actually a collection of dozens of books! These are carefully arranged so we can read the history of God's care for His people. The Bible is divided into 2 main parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament is made up of individual books which are about kings, poets, prophets, priests and scribes.

These books tell how God guided His people and promised that He would send a Saviour.

The New Testament is where we find the story of Jesus and His first followers, written by 4 Gospel or 'Good News' writers. There are also copies of letters that were sent to be read aloud to individuals or little groups of people who had come to believe in Jesus.

So many people wanted to hear the teaching in the letters and books, that they were copied onto scrolls and passed around in different areas. Gradually these scrolls were collected together into one book, the Bible.



A helping hand

Applying the Lesson



So we see that we are to treat people the way we like to be treated ourselves, that means with kindness and love. Jesus said that if we see someone who is hungry that we should give them something to eat, or if someone is thirsty we should give them something to drink. (Taken from Matthew 25:33-40)

So God wants us to help each other when we are going through difficult times.

Think of ways that we can be helpful to people around us.

- Talk about things you have done recently to help someone else.
- Draw a picture of something you could do to help at home.
- Act out a situation showing helpfulness.

One way we can help is to pray.

Let's pray together for the children of the world who do not have many of the good things that we have. (Perhaps 1 or 2 children could read the prayer aloud in assembly or in class.)

Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for all the good things you have given us.
Thank you for our families, and for our houses.
Thank you for our food and clothes, and leisure time.
Thank you that we are able to go to school to learn
and thank you that we have the Scriptures so that we read all
about You.

We ask that you might help boys and girls like Alvaro and Luka who do not have as many good things as we do.
Please help the children who are hungry or have no place to live, or are too poor to go to school.

We ask that more boys and girls will be able to hear how you can bring change into their lives.

Amen



Giving thanks.
Lima, Peru

The Bible is still as important to Christians today because we believe that the writers were inspired by God. This is why it has been given names like 'The Word of God' and 'The Holy Scriptures'.

God speaks through the Bible. He teaches us about His son, Jesus Christ and gives guidance on how to live our lives.

More Ways to Help...

Another way we can help people in need is to support a charity or special project.

Would you like to help the Bible Society reach boys and girls in India by getting involved in the Scripture project on the following pages? Read on for more information.



Project India

Helpful Hints to get you involved

Bible Society Project in India

The Bible Society would like every child to understand the Bible. Picture Bibles are very helpful and popular among children in India who speak a language called 'Tegulu'. We want to help these boys and girls to receive Picture Bibles so that they can become 'Bible Kids' just like you and learn all about Jesus.

Each Bible costs around £1.10 and we would like to cover half of the cost so that more families and schools can afford to buy Bibles for their children. This is how you can help. For every 55p you raise, you are sharing the cost of a Picture Bible, making it affordable for another child in India. **Here are a few ideas to help you get involved.**



A 'Spicy' Project

One of the things that India is famous for is rich and colourful spices. Here's an idea to help you collect some money for boys in and girls in India and it will remind you of them too!



Instructions for children: Ask an adult to give you a spice jar that is empty - it might smell a bit spicy! Use this to collect 10p, 20p or £1 coins. Your teacher will set a date for 'Spice day' when all the jars will be brought into class.

Instructions for teacher: Collect the jars (you may wish to put name tags on them) and see how many different spices there are - don't worry if there are herbs or spices from parts of the world other than India. Why not stick the labels on a world map to show where some of the spices come from, or use them to make a collage, filling in a simple outline map of the world.

'A Month for Bibles'

This is a very simple idea that even the smallest of children can take part in. ('A Week for Bibles' may be enough for younger children.)

Instructions for children: Pick a task to perform each day for a month/week and receive sponsorships for each day you achieve. You may decide to have 'A month of dog walking' - so you walk the dog every day, or 'A week of dish washing' - wash up after tea each evening. You may decide to use a month to read the Bible every day. You can try giving something up instead and have 'A month of no chocolate', or something else that you really love. How about 'A week of no TV'?

Instructions for Teacher: Prepare calendar charts and a sponsorship form for each child. Get the children to help you make a list of things they could do each day or things they could give up for a month/week. Let them pick an idea and write it on their form. Set the dates and go for it! You could maybe keep a 'stamina chart' during the month/week, charting the numbers who are still going strong. Or get the children all to draw pictures of their special month/week and make a display in the assembly hall or classroom. Maybe the teachers could even join in?

A little girl's story

'Where does God keep His bread?'



The Bible Society in India plays the cassettes of Scripture for a whole village to hear. In an area, where people speak the **Telugu** language, the average church almost doubles its attendance in the first two months. The Word of God is having an amazing impact!



Children from Gujarat, India

Here is a story of one girl, we'll call her Janis, who listened to the Word of God in her village, and trusted what God said to her. One day, after listening to God's Word on a cassette, Janis was so touched that faith burst into her heart. She ran home.

Janis' home was a small area in an attic. Her mother was lying on the bed, very sick. Janis knelt beside her and began to pray the Lord's Prayer, but specifically, 'Give us this day our daily bread.' Then she got up off her knees and wondered, 'Where does God keep his bread?'

Janis left the attic, went onto the street and looked up and down to see where God kept His bread. Down the street there was a bread shop, so she walked in and the owner looked at her and said, 'What do you want?' She replied, 'I'll take those two loaves of bread.' The owner got the bread down from the shelf, placed it in a bag and handed it to her.

Janis thanked him, turned around and walked out! The owner couldn't believe it. He thought she was stealing and he was so angry he yelled, 'What are you doing, you little thief?' Janis was so frightened that she began to cry. Through her tears she said, 'I heard the Scripture where Jesus says we're to pray and ask God for our daily bread. I prayed and asked God for bread, and I looked to see where he kept his bread and I thought that this was the place. So I came here looking for the bread that God promised me.'

The owner was so deeply touched that he immediately calmed Janis and gave her the two loaves of bread. Then he took another sack, filled it with bread and gave it to her.

Janis took it home and had bread for her mother and herself. God had provided the bread she had prayed for. Janis had so much faith in the Word of God that she immediately acted on it and God answered her prayer.

Talking Point

- Why was the shopkeeper angry with Janis?
- Was he right to be angry? (Make it clear that stealing is wrong!)
- What would you do if you had nothing to eat and no money?
(Talk about friends and family who would help us.)



Don't forget how important it is that people have The Word of God in their own language.

Scripture Scroll

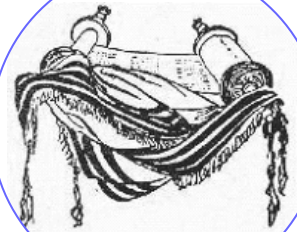
A Worksheet on Luke 10:27



Reverse the order of the letters in each of the words written below to discover the lesson we can learn from Luke 10:27.

ehT serutpircS yas 'evol eht droL htiw Ila
ruoy traeh, luos, htgnerts dna dnim.' yehT
osla yas, 'evol ruoy ruobhgien sa hcum sa
uoy evol flesruoy.'

Contemporary English Version



Make your own scroll

Use the verse above to make your own scroll, just like the writers of the books of the Bible.

You will need:

- 2 wooden rods (chop sticks, or unsharpened pencils which are at least 15cm long will do the job if you are stuck!)
- A few sheets of A3 paper (white or cream)
- colouring pencils/crayons/pens
- Paper glue.
- Scissors

Take your A3 page and fold it in half length wise (See diagram). Cut along the fold. You will only need one half of the page.



Cut along fold

Lightly mark 7cm from each end of the page. Using the space between these two marks, you can write and illustrate the words of Luke 10: 27. Smaller children may wish to draw a picture showing how someone has helped them.

Put a narrow strip of glue about 5cms from one of the short edges now carefully place the rod on the edge of the page and roll the paper around it until the glued part is holding the rod in place. Repeat this on the other end of the page. Smaller children may wish to simply roll the page to illustrate the concept of a scroll.

You now have a scroll which you can roll up, just like the ancient ones!

Thanks for supporting
the Scripture project for India.

Gifts should be sent to
BSNI, 27 Howard Street, Belfast, BT1 6NB