

LESSON 3:

Learning about Jesus

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- To guide young believers to learn how God's Word can help them grow in their friendship with Jesus:
 - The Bible (God's Word) is a special book, like no other.
 - God's Word helps them learn the truth about Jesus and grow to be more like him.
- To offer continued assurance of salvation and reinforcement of children's understanding of their new life with Jesus.
- To discuss some practical ways children can begin to use their Bibles daily to learn about Jesus from God's Word.

KEY VERSES:

PSALM 119:105 NIV – "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

1 PETER 2:2 NIV – "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."

INTRODUCTION FOR LEADERS

Why study God's Word? For a new believer, there is only one reason: to learn more about Jesus and this new life of following him. In this lesson, there will be much discussion about God's Word, how to use it, how to understand it, and its benefits for a person's life. However, the focus continues to be on growing a wonderful friendship with Jesus.

Lesson Overview

Welcome, Introduction & Review (10-20 minutes)

Welcome (Review, Table Setting & Meal)
Prayer

Scripture, Background & Discussion (20-30 minutes)

God's Word Helps Us Grow (Scripture & Discussion)
What Is the Bible? (Scripture & Discussion)
How Does It Help Us Grow? (Scripture & Discussion)
How Do I Use the Bible? (Activity)

Bible Story & Discussion (10-20 minutes)

A Bible Story (House on the Rock, Discussion)

Response & Application Options (20-30 minutes)

Learning God's Word (Spend Time, Memorize)
Something to Do (Journals, Questions, Prayer)

TOTAL TIME: 60-90 minutes

Materials Needed

BASIC SUPPLIES:

(best for settings with non-readers and limited supplies)

- Lesson Outline for Lesson 3
- A copy of *Your New Life with Jesus* Lesson 3 student booklet for leader reference
- Bible for leader
- An erasable board and writing supplies OR paper and pen/pencil
- Table Setting, Meal

ADDITIONAL SUPPLY OPTIONS:

(for settings with students who can read/write and where supplies are more readily available)

- A copy of *Your New Life with Jesus* Lesson 3 student booklet for each student
- A Bible or New Testament/Psalms for each student (easy-to-read for children)
- Blank paper or notebooks for journals for each student
- Pens or pencils for each student

Welcome, Introduction & Review

(10-20 minutes)

Welcome (Welcome, Review, Introduction to Lesson)

Materials: *Your New Life with Jesus* student booklet, Lesson 3 (optional)
Pens or pencils for each (optional)
Table setting with a simple meal to eat, covered (hidden)

☺ FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- Warmly welcome students. Tell them you are glad they have come. Help them to feel at ease. Introduce children to each other if they have not met.
- Ask children about their week. ***Have you talked with Jesus during the past week? What have you experienced with prayer so far? What happened?*** Discuss and share some of your own experiences. ***Did anyone draw a mark some days during the week when they spent quiet time with God? Did you notice that he was close to you wherever you went?***
- Did students write or draw in their journals? Talk about what they have been thinking. If possible, share an example of God working in your own life.
- Do students have other questions about life with Jesus? Talk about simple questions. Write others down and plan to discuss them later.

?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have a table set up in front with food on plates ready to eat. Cover it at first so no one sees what is there.
- ***What did you eat for dinner this past week? What is your favorite meal?*** Enjoy listening to students' answers.
- Pull off tablecloth covering. Show students a favorite meal of yours.
- ***Why do people eat?*** They might be hungry. They might eat because there is a party or celebration. The most important reason we eat is to nourish our bodies. For children, this is especially important. We eat so our bodies will grow strong.
- Last lesson we talked about growing both physically and spiritually. ***What did we learn will help us grow?*** Prayer (talking with God).
- ***What other kind of "food" will help us grow spiritually?*** God's Word. We will learn about the Bible, God's Word, today and how it helps us grow in our friendship with Jesus.

♥ PRAYER

- Open with a simple prayer. Ask God to give your students understanding about their friendship with Jesus and the importance of God's Word in growing their relationship with him.

📄 BOOKLET OPTION

- If booklets are available, invite children to draw their favorite meal. Discuss these together briefly.
- All lessons are designed to be presented with or without student booklets.
- Teachers may find it helpful to have a copy of the booklet as a reference while leading through the discussion, even if students do not have booklets.
- If using booklets, continue to refer to lesson plans for additional notes, comments, scriptures and questions for students to consider.



Scripture, Background & Discussion

(20-30 minutes)

God's Word Helps Us Grow (Scripture & Discussion)

Materials: Bible for teacher (and for every reading student, if available)

☺ FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- Remind students that people grow in their relationship with Jesus by consuming God's Word. No, this does not mean we "eat" the Bible. But it does mean spending time reading God's Word and obeying it. Then we grow to bring praise and glory to God (to make him "famous").

📖 BIBLE LOOK-UP

- What does the Bible say about itself? A lot.
 - Matthew 4:4** – Jesus said that we need more than bread (food) to live. We need the truth from God, too.
 - 1 Peter 2:2** – Peter, one of the first followers of Jesus, told people to want God's Word in the same way that a baby wants milk.
 - Joshua 1:8** – In ancient times, Moses told Joshua (both famous leaders of Israel) to never stop reading – and obeying – God's Word, because this obedience would give him great success.
 - Psalms 119:105** – King David wrote that God's Word is like a lamp for our feet during the dark. **How important is it to have a light when it is very dark?** Very important. God's Word helps us like a lamp or a flashlight in the dark.
- What truth about God's Word seems most special to you right now?**

What Is the Bible? (Scripture & Discussion)

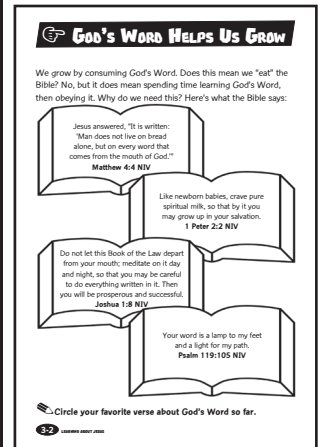
Materials: Bible for teacher (and for every reading student, if available)

☺ FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- The Bible is like God's letter to us:
 - Imagine that a friend wrote a special letter to you.
 - In the letter your friend tells how much he loves you.
 - He shares many things that can help you through any situation.
 - The letter contains guidelines that will help you avoid many heartaches and troubles.
 - This letter also helps you get to know the heart of your friend.
- This friend is God, and the letter is the Bible. It seems like a big, long letter, doesn't it? But it is filled with a lifetime of messages from God for us. It helps us learn all about Jesus and our life with him.

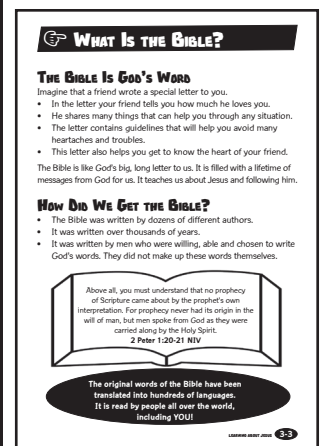
📖 BIBLE LOOK-UP

- How did we get the Bible?**
 - The Bible was written by dozens of different authors.
 - It was written over thousands of years.
 - It was written by men who were willing, able and chosen to write God's words. They did not make up these words themselves. **(Read 2 Peter 1:20-21)** Some Bible words are called prophecies.
- The original words of the Bible have been translated into hundreds of languages. It is read by people all over the world. Those who follow Jesus don't just read it, they do what it says. It helps them learn about Jesus and grow to be more like him.



📖 BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read scriptures on page 3-2 and circle a favorite verse.



📖 BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read the scriptures on page 3-3.

How Does It Help Us Grow?

Read the verses below. Underline any words referring to God's Word ("the law of the Lord," "my words," "Scriptures," etc.). List what you learn about how God's Word helps us grow.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.
John 15:7 NIV

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
Psalms 19:7 NIV

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.
2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

How can God's Word help you grow?

As we read, learn and obey, we grow to be more like Jesus!

- BOOKLET OPTION**
- If using booklets, students may read these scriptures and list their findings in the spaces provided on page 3-4.

How Do I Use the Bible?

FINDING THINGS IN THE BIBLE

If you have a Bible, take some time to learn about it. It is a big book. But kids can learn to use it. After you have found each item, place a check mark in each box.

- ☐ **Find the Table of Contents**
Notice that the Bible has 66 books. It was written by different men. The Bible is made up of the Old and New Testaments (Testament means "Promise").
- ☐ **Find page 150**
People do not usually find verses in the Bible with page numbers. A verse "address" has a book name (John), a chapter number (3) and a verse number (16).
- ☐ **Find John 3:16**
This verse is found in a book written by John, one of Jesus' closest disciples. Are the words in red in your Bible? Some Bibles have highlighted Jesus' words in red. His words are extra important. They really help us learn about Jesus.
- ☐ **Find Genesis 1:1**
The very beginning of the Bible teaches us that God made the heavens and the earth.
- ☐ **Find Matthew 1:1**
This is the first verse of the New Testament. The New Testament is all about the life and work of Jesus and his early followers.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Do you have your own Bible?
If not, pray and ask God for his help to find one.

- BOOKLET OPTION**
- If using booklets, students may follow these activities with a Bible, using page 3-5.

How Does It Help Us Grow? (Scripture & Discussion)

Materials: Bible for teacher (and for every reading student, if available)



BIBLE LOOK-UP

- God's Word helps us to grow. **But how? In what ways will it help us grow?** Read these verses to discover some of the answers. (Look for any words referring to God's Word: "the law of the Lord," "my words," "scripture," etc.)
 - John 15:7** – If we have the words of Jesus inside us and stay close to him and obey him, we can ask for anything and receive it.
 - Psalms 19:7** – The law of the Lord gives us new strength; it makes simple people wise (including kids!).
 - 2 Timothy 3:16** – It teaches us what is true, helps us correct our mistakes, makes our lives whole again and trains us to do what is right.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How can God's Word help you grow?**
- Read these scripture verses again. List all the possible ways in which God's Word helps a person grow to be more like Jesus.

How Do I Use the Bible? (Activity)

Materials: Bible for teacher (or for every reading student, if available)



BIBLE LOOK-UP

- The Bible is a big book. Even so, kids can learn to use it. If students have Bibles, quickly take time for some practice with the Bible. One at a time, look for the following items. Do this as a class with one Bible, work in pairs or small groups, or allow each child to do this with his or her own Bible.
 - ☐ **Find the Table of Contents**
Notice that the Bible is made up of 66 books. It was written by different men. The Bible is made up of the Old and New Testaments (Testament means "Promise").
 - ☐ **Find page 150**
People do not usually find verses in the Bible with page numbers. A verse "address" has a book name (John), a chapter number (3) and a verse number (16).
 - ☐ **Find John 3:16**
This verse is found in a book written by John, one of Jesus' closest disciples. **Are the words in red in your Bible?** Some Bibles have highlighted Jesus' words in red. His words are extra important.
 - ☐ **Find Genesis 1:1**
The very beginning of the Bible teaches us that God made the heavens and the earth.
 - ☐ **Find Matthew 1:1**
This is the first verse of the New Testament. The New Testament is all about the life and work of Jesus and his early followers.
- We do not grow by knowing all about the pages and verses of the Bible. We grow by learning about Jesus, learning lessons from God's Word, and then putting these things into practice in our lives.

Bible Story & Discussion

(10-20 minutes)

A Bible Story (The House on the Rock: Matthew 7:24-29)

Materials: Bible for teacher (or for every reading student, if available)



BIBLE READING

- Read the story from the Bible. Then discuss the story and questions together.
- As you read and discuss the story, children will also begin to notice how to find a passage of scripture, read it (without reading the numbers), think about it, and consider lessons from it for their lives.
- Avoid making this lesson all about legalism for children. The Sermon on the Mount (just prior to this passage) was all about a new Kingdom, one where righteousness came from the heart, not just from outward behavior (like the Pharisees had). Encourage your children to grow in their love for Jesus as they learn about the importance of his Word.

1. Jesus taught people many lessons.

- He taught them about a new Kingdom, ruled by God. The rules of this Kingdom are different from the rules of other kingdoms. What are some of the important teachings in this Kingdom?
Read Matthew 5:44 - Love your enemies.
Read Matthew 6:2-4 - Give in secret, from the heart.
Read Matthew 7:12 - Treat others as well as you treat yourself.
- After this very long session of teaching, Jesus taught his disciples the importance of not just hearing his words, but obeying them.

2. Jesus ended with the story of two men.

- One man built his house on a rock. He built it on a good foundation.
- When the storms came, his house stood firm. It did not fall. It did not break.
- Another man built his house on the sand. He did not build it on a good foundation.
- When the storms came, his house fell. It was a mess.

3. Jesus taught the meaning of the stories.

- What was the difference between these two men's houses?** One built on a solid foundation; the other did not.
- Read Matthew 7:24.** Jesus told people that obedience to his words would give their lives a strong foundation, like the man who built his house on a rock.

4. So which words did Jesus say that we should obey?

- There were many words. We can read about them in the New Testament.
- Many of Jesus' words were about loving God and loving people.
- They were about prayer and kindness. (**Read John 13:34.**)

5. God's Word is true.

- It is important. It is to be obeyed.
- What difference can obeying God's Word make in your life?**

A BIBLE STORY

THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK

Jesus taught people many lessons. After one long session of teaching, he told this story about the importance of obeying his words.

Matthew 7:24-29 NIV

(The Bible book of Matthew, chapter 7, verses 24 to 29)
 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

"But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. "The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, "because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law."



THINK ABOUT THIS

- Are Jesus' words just for listening to? No, They are to obey.
- What difference can obeying Jesus' words make in your life?



BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read the Bible story and consider discussion questions on page 3-6.

Response & Application Activities

(20-30 minutes)

Learning God's Word (Reading, Thinking, Memorizing)

Materials: Bible for teacher (or each reading student, if available)

?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **If we do not have Bibles, how can we learn God's Word?** We can find someone who can read to us, or a class of children where a teacher will teach about God's Word. We can spend time reading and thinking about stories and verses in *Your New Life with Jesus* booklets.
- **SPEND SOME TIME IN GOD'S WORD: Do you have a Bible?** If so, it is time to get started learning from God's Word. Start with a small book, like Mark, in the New Testament. It is all about Jesus. Start simply, like this:
 1. **WHAT DOES IT SAY?** Read a few verses at a time. Think about what you read. Write down what you learn, if you can. Look for a promise in the verse. Thank God for the promise.
 2. **WHAT IS GOD TEACHING ME?** Spend time being quiet before God and allow him to speak to your heart about what you read. **How will you know what God wants you to learn?** Read John 14:26. The Holy Spirit will teach you. It is God's promise. Write down what God could be teaching you.
 3. **HOW CAN I OBEY?** Think of one way you might obey or respond to this lesson in the coming day.
 4. **TALK WITH JESUS.** Pray your response back to him. Tell him questions you still have. Thank him for teaching you.
- **MEMORIZE:** Or, choose ONE Bible verse to memorize. This hides God's Word deep in your heart. Go back to Lesson 2 (page 2-2) to look at some great ideas. In pairs, students choose one verse from this page to memorize and think about on their own. (Write this verse out on slips of papers or cards, if children do not have Bibles for reference.)

LEARNING GOD'S WORD

SPEND TIME IN GOD'S WORD
Do you have a Bible? It's time to get started learning God's Word on your own. (If you do not have a Bible, spend time reading and thinking about stories and verses in this booklet, or find someone to read the Bible to you.)

Start with the book of Mark in the New Testament. It's about Jesus. Or use the story of the House on the Rock (page 3-6).

WHAT DOES IT SAY?
Read a few verses at a time. Think about what you read. Write down what you learn, if you can. Look for a promise in the verse. Thank God for the promise.

WHAT IS GOD TEACHING ME?
Spend time being quiet before God and allow him to speak to your heart about what you read. How will you know what God wants you to learn? Read John 14:26. The Holy Spirit will teach you. It is God's promise. Write down what God could be teaching you.

HOW CAN I OBEY?
Think of one way you might obey or respond to this lesson in the coming day.

TALK WITH JESUS.
Pray your response back to him. Tell him questions you still have. Thank him for teaching you.

MEMORIZE A VERSE
Or, pray and choose a Bible verse to memorize. This hides God's word in your heart. See page 2-2. Choose one verse to memorize and think about on your own. Write it here:

LEARNING GOD'S WORD 3-7

BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, children may do these activities using page 3-7.

SOMETHING TO DO...

WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL
If you have a journal, add an entry like this every time you read God's Word. Fill in the blanks with your answers.

You could also think about these questions on your own.

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS
Do you have more questions about your life with Jesus or God's Word? Write your questions here or in your journal. Ask another person in God's family to help you find answers.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY
Talk to Jesus anywhere. Ask for his help to understand God's Word.

A Bible Verse to Remember

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
Psalm 119:105 NIV

LEARNING GOD'S WORD 3-8

BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, work through these final activities on page 3-8.

Something to Do: Start a Journal

Materials: Blank notebook or tablet of paper (optional); Pens or pencils

✍ WRITING/RESPONSE

- Invite children to work in their notebooks or journals, if they have them. Add an entry like this every time they read God's Word. Fill in the blanks with answers. Some may rather just think about these questions, without writing anything down.

♥ PRAYER

- Remind children they can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything.
- **Is there something we can pray about together?** Pray for each other to grow strong in love for Jesus.

😊 FRIENDSHIP & CLOSING

- As children prepare to leave, remind them that God's Word can help them with any question they have. **Read Psalm 119:105.** God's Spirit living in them is also a teacher and helper when they have questions. **John 14:26.**

Date: _____

Scripture: _____

What does it say? _____

One thing God could be teaching me through this verse is _____

In the coming day, one way I could obey this is _____

Dear God, help me to _____
