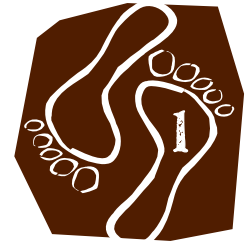


What's So Special About the Bible?



Description:

An object lesson, a skit and a demonstration

Aims:

- Know why the Bible is special
- Recognize the Bible's importance in the Christian's life
- Pray for Bibleless peoples

Audience:

Grades 1-6

Space Needed:

Classroom

Country/Area:

World

Minimum Time Requirements:

- Learning about God's Word 7 minutes
- People who loved God's Word 12 minutes
- Learning about Bibleless peoples 3 minutes

Scripture to Study:

Psalms 119:105

Matthew 4:4

Hebrews 4:12

Materials:

- Copies of activity pages 1-4 (attached at end of this lesson)
- Bread
- Lantern or flashlight
- Toy or cardboard sword
- Pencils
- Copies of biographies for Mary Jones, Samuel Morris, and Henry Stanley (see Pre-Class Preparations on page 2)
- Current prayer request for a Bibleless People Group from the site:
www.wycliffe.org/Pray/BiblelessPeoplesPrayerProject.aspx

Pre-class Preparations:

- Download and print the stories about Mary Jones, Samuel Morris and Henry Stanley from this web site:
<http://www.discipleland.com/teacher-resources/show-downloads.html?keyword=lava> Scroll down to the section entitled, "More Info Resources." Print pages for your students about Mary Jones, Samuel Morris and Henry Stanley. (One biography for each 3-5 students should be enough.)
- Print copies of activity pages 1-4.
- Place pencils in the middle of each table.
- Obtain a current prayer request for a Bibleless People Group from this web site (optional):
www.wycliffe.org/Pray/BiblelessPeoplesPrayerProject.aspx

Class Time:

Draw students' attention to the bread, light and sword props. Ask the following questions and allow the children to respond.

What is important about bread? Why is the light important?
How can someone use a sword?

After a few children have responded, continue,

Do you know what all of these things have in common?

After a few students have given their ideas, pass out activity pages 1-4. Then ask volunteers to read the speech balloons on activity page 2. Ask the children,

Did you figure out what the bread, the light and the sword have in common? How are they the same?

Pause for responses and continue,

That's right. The Bible is like all of these things. It feeds us like the bread. It gives us light like the lantern (flashlight). It gives us strength like a sword. We really, really need everything the Bible gives us!

All these descriptions come from the Bible itself. Let's try to match each description with the verse from which it comes. I need some volunteers to look up the verses listed on activity page 2.

Materials:

- Bread
- Light
- Sword
- Activity pages 1 and 2
- Bibles
- Pencils

Invite the volunteers read their verses. Work together to match the verses with the correct pictures. Have the children draw lines from each verse to the corresponding picture or write the verse reference by the picture (bread—Matthew 4:4, light—Psalm 119:105, sword—Hebrews 4:12).

Ask,

Do you know how special the Bible is? Let's take an imaginary trip to the WordSpring Discovery Center and find out.

Take some time to look at activity page 1. Discuss,

What do you notice? Why do you think the boy next to the book says it is alive? Yes, it is God's Word. The verse in Hebrews said that God's Word is alive.

Who will read the facts about the Bible, printed on the Bible near the bottom of this colorful page?

Select a volunteer. After he or she has finished reading, read the question at the bottom of the page, ask,

What do you think? Why is the Bible the most popular book ever? Write your answer at the bottom of this page. When you finish writing, turn to your neighbor (or talk to the other people at your table). Share what you wrote.

PEOPLE WHO LOVED GOD'S WORD

Tell the children,

I am going to give each table (or row or group) the biography or story of a real person who loved the Bible. Each of these people showed his or her love for God's Word in a special way. Your group will act out the story of the person I give you. Be sure you show us how the person expressed his or her love for the Bible.

Before I hand out the stories, look at pages 2 and 3 of your activity pages again. Do you see the questions next to the pictures of Mary Jones, Samuel Morris and Henry Stanley? Your skit should include the answer to the question listed next to your person. Any questions?

Hand out the biographies of Mary Jones, Samuel Morris and Henry Stanley to small groups of about four children each. Give the groups 5 to 10 minutes to plan their skits.

Materials:

- Biographies
- Activity pages 2 and 3

After groups have had time to prepare their skits, invite them to perform for the class.

When all have performed, say,

Thank you, everyone! I think all of us will be able to answer the questions on activity pages two and three. Let's try.

Read each question on pages 2 and 3 and discuss the answers together. Instruct the children,

Tell your neighbor how the Bible makes a difference in your life.

After the children have had time to share, ask,

Who would be brave enough to tell the class how the Bible makes a difference in your life?

Allow a few volunteers to share.

LEARNING ABOUT BIBLELESS PEOPLES

Tell the students,

We have learned why God's Word is special and why we need it. Can you imagine never being able to read or hear the Bible in your own language?

Have the children turn to page 4 and read. Ask,

See the lady to whom the children are talking?
From what country do you think she came?

Take a few guesses before telling them,

She came from the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. Now look at the picture again. Do you see some people standing behind her? Who could they be?

Take a few responses until someone answers correctly.

Yes, these people don't have the whole Bible in their languages. More than 2,000 language groups do not have any part of the Bible in the language they understand best. By praying, you and I can join the team and take an active role in the Bible translation task! Let's stop now and pray.

Pray. Thank God for His Word and how it feeds, guides and strengthens us. Pray for those who still wait for God's Word in their languages. Ask that God will prepare many workers to give them the Bible in their own languages.

Materials:

- Activity page 4
- Current prayer request for a Bibleless People Group from the site: www.wycliffe.org/Pray/BiblelessPeoplesPrayerProject.aspx

WORDSPRING

What's So Special About the Bible?

This Discovery Center is cool!

Yeah! How did that canoe get way up there?

Hey, this book is... sort of... yikes! It's alive!

The Bible has been treasured by people around the world for 4,000 years.

The Bible has been hand-copied more than any other book.

The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years by about 40 different authors.

The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book.

The Bible was the first book printed on a printing press.

More Bibles have been printed than any other book.

Why do you think the Bible is the most popular book ever?

The Bible Is Alive!

ὁδηγοῦσθε αὐτοὺς ἐπὶ
ζωῆς πηγῆς ὕδατων
Heb 4:12

Read each verse. Then draw lines from the Bible reference to the picture it describes.

Hebrews 4:12
Matthew 4:4
Psalm 119:105

The Bible feeds me!

The Bible guides me!



Find out how the Bible changed these people.

See www.discipleland.com/moreinfo
Keywords: "Jones" or "Morris" or "Stanley"

Why did Mary Jones save her money so long to buy a Bible?



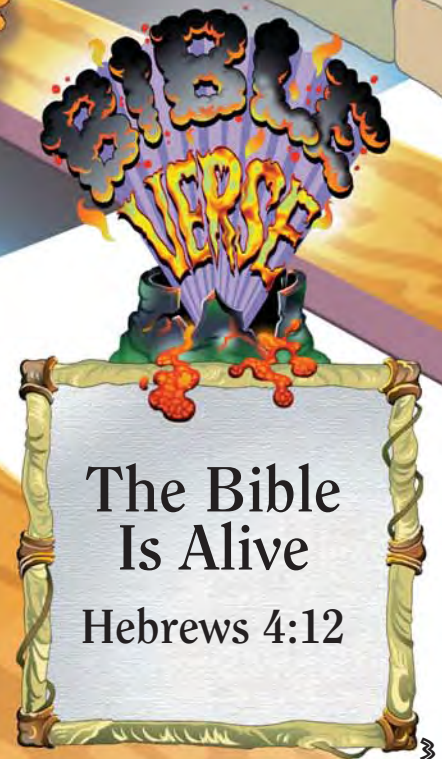
The Bible Is Powerful!

The Bible strengthens me!

Why did Henry M. Stanley leave all his books behind except his Bible?

What happened to Samuel Morris (Prince Kaboo) that showed him that the Bible is true and alive?

The Bible
Is Alive
Hebrews 4:12



Are these people from around the world today?

Yes, we need help translating the Bible into our languages.

How do you do it?

Come see! We use 10 basic steps.

Maybe we could even find a way to help out!



Count the volcanoes on Mindanao Island.