

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Paul wrote several letters encouraging the church to stay unified in Christ.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the next 7 books: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 1:10-17, Church Divisions Over Leaders

MEMORY VERSE:

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." - 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Paul wrote many letters to the churches, encouraging them to stay faithful to Jesus. We can learn a lot about following Christ through these letters.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us how we can build a strong church.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

MEMORY VERSE

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

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Choose four kids who think they know the verse. Line them up on stage. Have the kids recite the memory verse, with each kid saying one word, starting left to right. When you get to the kid on the right, go back to the kid on the far left. Keep going until they get through the whole verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

Books of the Bible

SKIT

LETTERS TO CHURCHES

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Mike and Elaine - Bible fans

Mike and Elaine enter.

MIKE: Hey guys, I'm Mike.

ELAINE: And I'm Elaine.

MIKE: And we are Bible fanatics!

ELAINE: And today, we are going to talk about some letters.

MIKE: Last week in the book of Acts, you may remember that we met a man named Saul who was changed by an encounter with Jesus.

ELAINE: Saul became Paul, and Paul became one of the leaders in the new church. He traveled all over the Roman Empire sharing the Good News of Jesus, and when he was unable to travel, he wrote letters.

MIKE: The first half of Paul's letters were written to churches, and those are the letters we're going to learn today.

ELAINE: The first letter is called Romans and it was written to the Romans. This is the longest of Paul's letters, and it was written to share God's plan of salvation for the world. Rome was a powerful city ruled by an Emperor who controlled a mighty army. So let's give a salute when we remember Romans!

SKIT

MIKE: The next two letters are First and Second Corinthians, written to the church at Corinth. These letters encouraged the new Christians to act like true followers of Christ, avoiding sin and loving others. For these two books, we'll count one and two on our fingers, then make a big C with our arms!

ELAINE: After the letters to the Corinthians comes a letter to the Galatians, so let's turn that big C into a G by turning the lower arm back in to form a G. This is a wonderful letter in which Paul explains that we are saved not by anything we do, but by faith in Jesus.

MIKE: After Galatians comes Ephesians, a letter to the church in Ephesus. Paul talks about many things in this letter, including why kids should obey Mom and Dad and how we need to suit up in the full armor of God. Let's make an E using 3 fingers on one hand to remember Ephesians.

ELAINE: Next is the letter to the Phillipines.

MIKE: You mean the Philippians.

ELAINE: Oops, my bad! Philippians is a letter of thanks and encouragement to a church near and dear to Paul's heart. Since Philippians sounds like the word flip, flip your hand from palm up to palm down to help you remember - "Flip-pians!"

MIKE: And finally we get to the book of Collisions.

ELAINE: That's the letter to the Colossians.

MIKE: It is? I thought it was a book about driver safety!

ELAINE: No, silly, it's a letter to the church in Colossi, written to correct some wrong beliefs and put the people back on the right path.

MIKE: Well since it is about steering people straight, how about we pretend that we're steering a car?

ELAINE: That's a great idea!

MIKE: Think you can review these letters with the kids?

ELAINE: Sure can! Come on, guys. Salute for Romans. Count one and two for big C, Corinthians. Turn Big C into Big G for Galatians. Make an E for Ephesians. Flip your hand for Philippians. And steer your car straight with Colossians.

SKIT

MIKE: Great job, guys! We're getting close to the end!

ELAINE: Keep reviewing, and keep memorizing. Get to know the Word of God!

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

HAND MOTION LESSON

During the middle 10 lessons of this series, there will not be a traditional object lesson. Instead, use this time to teach and reinforce the hand motions that go with each book.

Have any of you ever received a letter in the mail? Letters don't come and go as much as they used to in the days before the Internet, but people still send one another messages, on paper, or electronically, to share information, stories, and encouragement, just as they did in the days of the early church.

Paul, one of the early church's most important leaders, wrote many letters during his ministry. Some of these letters are collected in the Bible, and the first seven are all written to churches.

The first letter was written to the Roman church. Rome was the capital of the world in those days, a powerful city with a grand army. Let's give a sharp military salute to help us remember Romans.

The next two letters were sent to the church in Corinth and the Corinthians. Let's count from 1 to 2 on our fingers and then open our arms to make a big C for Corinthians.

Now bend your lower arm back into the C-shape to make a G for Galatians, the next letter in the New Testament written to the church at Galatia.

Ephesians is next, and Ephesians starts with an E. Take one hand, turn it sideways, and spread your middle three fingers into an E shape to remember the letter to the Ephesians.

Philippians comes next. This is a wonderful letter full of encouragement for God's church. Flip your hand from one side to the other to remember to "flip" to Philippians.

And finally, we come to Colossians. Let me see you drive a car like you are trying to avoid a collision.

Let's review the seven letters we learned today with their hand motions. Then let's go back and see if we can go through the New Testament up through Colossians.

Repeat the seven letters, then go back and review from Matthew through Colossians 2-3 times, then try going all the way from Genesis to Colossians to wrap up the lesson.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LARGE GROUP GAME

POP QUIZ

ITEMS NEEDED:

Buzzers (whoopee cushion, bike horn, or table bell make good buzzer alternatives)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this quiz game. In this competition, you'll give the name of a group of books of the Bible - the first five, history books, poetry, major or minor prophets, or gospels. The kid who buzzes in first will get a chance to try and recite them all, with or without hand motions. If they get it right, they get a point. If they get it wrong, the other player will get a chance to answer and win the point. The kid with the most points at the end wins.

VARIATION:

Instead of a quiz game, pick random kids from the audience, and randomly select a group of Bible books for them to try and remember/recite. If they get it right, they win a small prize.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Paul encouraged the church to stay faithful through his letters - and part of staying faithful meant learning the Bible.

Books of the Bible

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Paul wrote several letters encouraging the church to stay unified in Christ.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the next 7 books: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 1:10-17, Church Divisions Over Leaders

INTRO:

Have any of you ever noticed a funny, metal box out in front of your house? For some of you, it might be on the porch by the front door, but for most who live in houses, these metal boxes are usually perched on poles or housed in brick down by the street, right in front of your yard. These peculiar boxes are called... mailboxes, and they were designed to hold things called letters. Can you say that with me? Letters.

I'm being a bit silly, of course. I'm sure you all know what a mailbox is, and I'm sure most if not all of you know what letters are. Most of the letters you receive at home are probably business and personal items for your parents, but I bet a few of you have received and maybe even written a letter or two. Anyone?

People do not write letters like they used to. Email and text messages and social media have taken the place of most of the letter writing that happened in the past, but from time to time, people today still write letters to share stories and information or just spread a little love and encouragement.

The New Testament is filled with letters that were written by the early church leaders, most of them by Paul. You may remember Paul from his old name Saul. We learned his story last week. Paul became a missionary, and as Paul traveled the world, he wrote letters to the churches and people he met. Today, we're going to focus on seven letters he wrote to churches.

Paul focused his letters to the churches on teaching. He wanted to correct problems he heard in the church, he wanted to encourage those who were being persecuted, but most of all, he wanted to encourage the church to stay strong and unified in Christ, as he does in this passage from 1 Corinthians.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17

MAIN POINT:

The church in Corinth sounds a lot like many churches today. The church was divided, with many people saying, “Paul is our leader,” and others saying, “No, Apollo is our leader,” and so on and so on.

Paul reminded the Corinthians that though they heard the Good News of Jesus from different people, it’s not those people they need to follow. Jesus is our leader. Jesus is the Son of God, and we all need to be focused on Christ.

The letters to the churches are full of lessons like this. They teach Christians to beware of false teachers. They teach them to live godly lives. They remind them that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who died for us, and they encourage the church to stay strong in the faith.

DRIVE IT HOME:

There are seven letters to churches that follow the book of Acts. Romans is the biggest, and some say the greatest of all Paul’s letters. This letter to the Roman church was written to share God’s plan of salvation for the world. It’s a powerful book full of truth that continues to challenge believers and non-believers today.

The next two books, First and Second Corinthians, were written to the church at Corinth. The first of these letters encouraged the new Christians to act like true followers of Christ, avoiding sin and loving others. In the second book, Paul praises the people for heeding his instructions and encourages them to continue living godly lives.

In the book of Galatians, Paul explains that we are saved by faith. Some people in Galatia had the mistaken idea that they could earn salvation, but Paul reminds them that Jesus paid the price for our sin for us, a price we could never pay.

Ephesians is the next letter. The most famous passage from this book is where Paul teaches us to put on the full armor of God. Paul uses the armor and weaponry of the Roman soldiers to explain how we can defend ourselves from temptation.

The letter to the Philippians is filled with thanks and encouragement. The Philippians were big supporters of Paul who, like Paul, were experiencing persecution for their faith. It’s an uplifting book that still encourages Christians today.

And finally, we come to Colossians. Like many of the letters, Colossians was written to correct some wrong beliefs and get the church back on track. Paul wanted all believers to be unified in Christ and in faith.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians were written a long time ago, but the message of these letters is just as important today as it was when first written. God's church needs to be united in Jesus. We need to live in a way that honors Christ, and we need to have a strong faith in Jesus. Let's thank God for the wisdom of Paul, and commit to being a church united.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us how we can build a strong church.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

Who can go through the New Testament, Matthew to Colossians, with the hand motions?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

2 Timothy 3:16

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Why were the believers in Corinth arguing amongst themselves?

What did Paul want these believers to do instead of arguing?

Why is it important for us as Christians to be united in Jesus?

ACTIVITY:

Review the hand motions with the kids for the first seven letters.

Romans - Salute

1 & 2 Corinthians - Count 1 and 2 on fingers, then make a big C as in YMCA

Galatians - Turn the big C into a big G by bending in the lower arm

Ephesians - Hold 3 fingers sideways in an E shape

Philippians - Flip your hand from palm up to palm down

Colossians - Drive a car like you are trying to avoid a collision

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to stay faithful to Jesus and united as believers.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Books of the Bible

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these letters from Paul.

ALASNIATG

Galatians

MNASOR

Romans

EEPHSSIAN

Ephesians

INCORANSTHI

Corinthians

COSSLONSIA

Colossians

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: DEAR PASTOR



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Paul wrote many letters to the churches, encouraging them to stay faithful to Jesus. We can learn a lot about following Christ through these letters.

1 Corinthians 1:10-17, Church Divisions Over Leaders



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask the kids to teach you the hand motions they learned to help them remember Paul's letters to the churches. See if they can remember all of the books of the Bible from the beginning.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who wrote the letters to the churches?
- Why did Paul write these letters?
- What important messages do these letters have for us?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

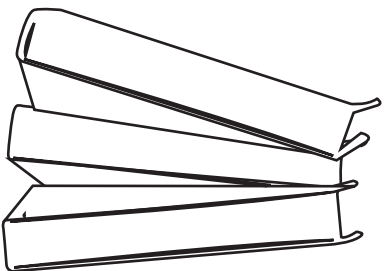
"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

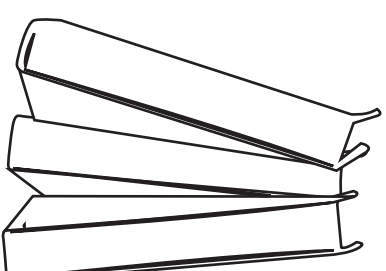
What you need to know:

Paul's letters to the churches encouraged Christians to live holy lives and to stay united in Jesus. Read some of the writings of Paul with the kids this week. Philippians is a good place to start.



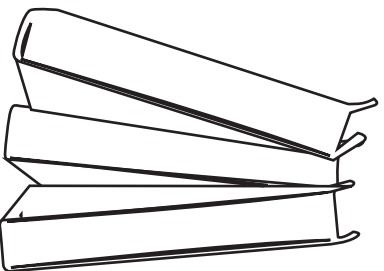
"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right."

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)



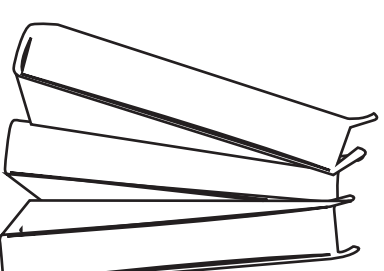
"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right."

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)



"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right."

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)



"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right."

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Each week, the kids will cut out and make “book spines” for the books of the Bible they learn that week. The goal is by the end of the series, they will be able to put all of these crafts end to end on a wall or other display at home to show all the books of the Bible lined up, if they so choose.

Use construction paper to cut out the book ends. They can either do different colored strips for each book and paste them onto another piece of paper, or they can use one color and use a marker to draw lines to divide the books. Help them write the book names on each book “spine” in order.

This week's books are:

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians