



The Book – Lesson 2
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THE BOOK

Week 2: How Is the Bible Put Together?

Bible: Overview of the Bible

Bottom Line: The Bible is one continuous adventure story, written by God.

SUPPLIES

Opening Game: 2 large (1 lb.) bags of plain M & Ms, 2 large bowls and 12 small bowls

Teach: *National Treasure* movie clip; 8 card stock cards with the 8 sections of the Bible printed on them (with books on each)

Parts of the Bible Small Group Activity: *Good Luck Charlie* episode description, paper, pencils, “Books of the Bible” Bookmarks

Look It Up Small Group Activity: Pick out 10-12 Bible verses that are meaningful to you. Write them down on a sheet of paper and earmark them in your Bible. You will also need one Bible per preteen and a small prize for each Bible verse winner.

OPENING GAME: The Great Candy Divide

Supplies: 2 large (1 lb.) bags of plain M & M's, 2 large bowls and 12 small bowls

How to play: Play this game up front. Choose 6 girls and 6 boys to play against each other. Set up two tables, and on each table spread out the 6 small bowls and place the large bowl in the middle. Have the 6 girls at one table, and 6 guys at the other table. On go, each team must open their bag of M & M's into the large bowl and then together sort the M & M's into the 6 bowls by color (red, green, blue, orange, brown, and yellow). Once a team finishes sorting them completely, each person must eat all of ONE color of M & Ms. The first team to eat all their M & M's, wins.

After the game, ask the following questions:

The point:

1. What was it like to sort through all the M & M's that are normally just all jumbled together?
2. The Bible is divided up and sorted. What kind of sections do you think the Bible is divided up into? How many sections do you think you can name?

TEACH

Supplies: *National Treasure* clip; 8 card stock cards with the 8 sections of the Bible printed on them as follows:

Law

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Poetry

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Church History

Acts

Letters

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

Prophecy

Revelation

[Slide 1 – Cover]

Welcome back to our awesome series called THE BOOK. Last week, we asked the question, “How do we know the Bible is true?” And we talked about looking at the facts of the Bible as proof. Can anyone tell me if they remember some of the facts that we talked about? (Take responses)

Mainly, we learned that we can know the Bible is 100% true because:

- It never contradicts itself. (Says one thing, then says another.)
- Nothing has ever been proven wrong from it. (In fact, it’s historically perfect.)
- It predicted things correctly, 100% of the time.

So we have a pretty good idea, based on the facts that the Bible is 100% true. So let’s ask a new question today:

[Slide 2 – How is the Bible put together?]

How is the Bible put together? To demonstrate, I need 8 volunteers.

Pick 8 preteens and divide them up into two sides, Old and New Testament. Put the OT students on one side of you and the NT students on the other side. While talking about the different sections and testaments, point to the side or preteen that you are talking about. Also, you need to have prepared 8 signs that list the 8 different sections of the Bible, with the books on those sections.

The Bible is made up of 66 separate books and each of those books is broken down in chapters, just like a regular book and verses. This was done long ago to help people find parts of the Bible quicker. Now, those 66 books are divided up into two different sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The **Old** Testament tells the story from the beginning of time, until a few hundred years before Jesus came onto earth. The **New** Testament tells the story of when Jesus was on earth and the life of the early church after Jesus went back to heaven.

The Old Testament is divided up into 4 major sections represented by these fine 4 individuals: *Pass out the section title/book names to each preteen as you call out there section.*

The Law: written by Moses, it covers the story of the creation of the world, all the early characters of the world and tells the story of the creation of God's people the Israelites. These 5 books were written for the Israelites to guide their lives.

Next is **History:** these books are filled with some of the most amazing adventures in the Bible as it follows Kings, wars, romance... you name it. These stories are all true and blow every movie out of the water in term of how cool they are.

Then come the **Poetry** books: these are lots of songs of love and worship and great sayings of wisdom.

Finally, in the Old Testament are the **Prophets**, Minor and Major. These continue the story of the Israelites (also known as the Jewish people). Much of these books tell the story of men who God put on earth to tell of what was to come or to bring judgment to those that were being disobedient.

And that is the Old Testament. Law, History, Poetry, and Prophets.

I am going to represent the time in between the Old and New Testament. It was a period of about 400 years, where nothing was written. We don't know much about it except that there was silence.

Then came the New Testament, beginning with the **Gospels:** the gospels are 4 different versions of the life of Jesus, written by 4 different guys.

Next in the New Testament is the **Church History**, which is really one book, Acts. Acts tells the story of how Jesus' followers started the first churches and all the things they learned.

Next we have the **Letters:** these were written mostly by a guy named Paul and the rest by different apostles of the church. Most of the letters were written to churches for directions, correction, and training in righteousness. Where have we heard that before?

And then finally, we have one of the craziest books of the Bible that is all about **Prophecy**: it is called Revelation. Revelation was written to tell us about what is going to happen during the last days on earth and in heaven.

So, that is how the Bible is broken down. But, have you ever wondered how those books were chosen to be in the Bible?

It's not like someone took all the books in the world, threw them up in the air, and whichever books landed in a circle became part of the Bible. And, unfortunately, God didn't tell anyone exactly what books were supposed to be in the Bible and in what order.

So how did the books that God wanted end up in the Bible? There is a word for this... **CANON**. Say it with me, "Canon". No, not a cannon on a ship, or the canons that are on my arms (*flex, or point to a leader that may or may not have big muscles*).

[Slide 3 – Canon]

Canon is a term that means a measuring stick and is used to describe how we choose what books that belong in the Bible.

Some men of the church long ago came together and prayed long and hard about what books should go in the canon. What books would make up the Bible. They used lots of rules—like if the person who wrote it actually witnessed it—to decide if it should be included or not. In the end, the Holy Spirit (God) guided them to put exactly the books in the Bible that He wanted and in the correct order.

But here is the really cool part. Even though the Bible was written by lots of guys over a long period of time, **the Bible is one continuous adventure story, written by God.**

[Slide 4 – “the Bible is one continuous adventure story written by God.”]

It's like this:

[Play clip from *National Treasure* movie from 0:29 – 5:02]

Benjamin Gates' grandfather is explaining the adventure, and clues that all point to one overall treasure. That's kind of like the Bible. Only there are no secrets, and the treasure is for **EVERYONE!**

The Bible is the map to the treasure. It is one giant adventure story that tells us everything we need to know. And all the different parts and sections (*point to preteens as you go through each section*) the law, the history, the poetry, the prophets, the gospels, the church history, the letters, and the Prophecy. Though written down by different people, they were really put together by one Person, God! And the treasure for us is Jesus. It's the chance to spend forever with Him in heaven.

Did you know that the first mention of God's plan to save us from our sins is all the way in the beginning of the Bible in Genesis 3? That's the first clue. God knew that we were going to sin, and so before time he set up this whole story for the world to go through. We just had to go through it to be able to see why we needed Jesus.

It's great to be living today because we have a book, the Book, that tells us that whole story. That gives us all the clues. Unlike people thousands of years ago, we have the adventure book to read. We have God's complete story right.

Let's give a hand for all of our "sections" of the Bible up here!

[Slide 5 – Cover]

[Dismiss to small groups]

SMALL GROUP

Note: included below are two small group activities. If you have time, we encourage you to do both. However, due to time constraints you might only be able to do one. Choose beforehand, which one would best fit your group.

Activity: Parts of the Big Story

Supplies: *Good Luck Charlie* Episode description, paper, pencils, “Books of the Bible” Bookmark.

What to do: Pass out a paper and pencil to each preteen in your small group.

Say: I am going to read to you the basic plot to one of my favorite *Good Luck Charlie* episodes called “Sleepless in Denver”. I am going to give each of you different sections of the story and I want you to write your own version of what happens. Then we will come together and read the story.

Read:

1. Teddy (Charlie’s big sister) and Amy (Charlie’s mom) take Charlie to the library for story time.
2. The storyteller, Candace is a publisher of children’s books and tells Teddy and Amy that books nowadays are boring. Candace is always on the look for new talent.
3. Teddy and Amy compete to write a children's story to get published.
4. Meanwhile, PJ (Charlie’s brother) gives some crazy advice to a newlywed couple while delivering chicken.
5. Elsewhere, Bob (Charlie’s dad) does career day at Gabe's (Charlie’s other brother) class.

Give preteens about 5 minutes to write their story.

After they are done, have 5 of the preteens read their version of the story in order and see how it flows together. Then use the following to discuss:

Ask: How do you think this resembles how God wrote the Bible?

Note: *Even if you are doing just the **Look It Up** small group activity, discuss the below questions and pass out bookmarks.*

Say: God knew the whole story, what people would do and what needed to be done. But, he had people write down what they experienced and saw to tell the story.

Ask: Have you ever thought of the Bible as one giant adventure story?

Ask: Why is it important to know how the Bible and its different sections are put together?

Ask: Does knowing this get you more excited to read the Bible? Why?

Pass out the Books of the Bible Breakdown bookmark. Ask your students to try and memorize all 66 books of the Bible in order by next week.

Give out some type of reward for those who have them memorized the following week. You may want to extend this challenge for a few weeks. Make it a challenge to see how many preteens can have them memorized.

Activity: Look It Up

Supplies: Pick out 10-12 Bible verses that are meaningful to you. Write them down on a sheet of paper and earmark them in your Bible. You will also need one Bible per preteen and a small prize for each Bible verse winner.

I am going to give you a few Bible verses to look up one at a time. Feel free to use the bookmarks you were just given to help you find the verses. The purpose of this activity is to give you practice navigating through the Bible. The Bible verses I am giving you are really special to me, which is why we are using these specific verses. I will say the Bible verse, then you each try to find it in your Bible. The first one to find and read it wins a cool prize. Ready? Let's go.