



The Book – Lesson 3
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THE BOOK

Week 3: Why Should I Read the Bible?

Bible: 2 Timothy 3:16–17, Ephesians 2:10 Hebrews 4:12; Romans 15:4

Bottom Line: The Bible gives us direction, correction, and training.

SUPPLIES

Opening Game: tape, 6 dodge balls, two trash cans, large blocks (or a cardboard box), 6 angry birds plush toys

Teach: GPS device.

Supplies: start line and finish line, blindfold, a few small obstacles or cones

OPENING GAME: Angry Birds Dodgeball

How to play: The game works similar to modern day dodge ball with a twist. Create a large rectangle with a center line going through it to divide it into two equal squares. In the middle of each square flip over a large trash can. On top of the trash can, build up blocks to build a tower that 3 “angry birds” plush toys can sit on.

Divide the kids into two equal teams and have them line up on opposite sides of the rectangle.

Place 6 dodge balls on the center line in between both teams. It is suggested to use soft foam balls like Gator Skin® or Champion Rhino Skin available from S&S Worldwide or Amazon. However, you can use any large ball similar in size.

On go, players may run forward to grab a dodge ball, run back and touch their line and now the game has begun.

The object of the game is to knock out all the other players or knock all 3 of their angry birds off of the trash can first.

A player is out when:

- They are hit with a ball from the other team (Hit must be in the air. On a bounce doesn't count).
- They throw a ball and it is caught in the air by someone from the other team.

When a player is out, they will form a line on their square beginning at the center line and working toward that back of their square. If a player from their team catches a ball in the air, not only is the thrower out, but the first person in the catchers “out” line, may re-enter the game. Play the game until one team has knocked all the other players out, or as time permits.

After the game, ask the following questions:

1. What would it have been like to play that game without being given the rules?
2. What would it be like to play a sport in which you received no instructions or training on how to play it? Would that even make sense?

TEACH

[Slide 1 – Cover]

Welcome back to our series called *THE BOOK* where we are learning about the greatest story ever written. The Bible. Over the last two weeks we've talked about two common questions people ask about the Bible. The first week, we asked, "How do I know the Bible is true?" We discovered 3 things that help us to know it's 100% true (anybody think they can remember all 3?):

- 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.

Great! Then last week, since we know the Bible is 100%, we asked, "How is the Bible put together?" We saw that even though the Bible is composed of 66 books written by over 40 authors over a period of almost 1600 years, it tells One Story—God's Story.

This week we are going to build on that. You might say, "Great, the Bible is true and it tells one continuous and giant story. So what? It was written thousands of years ago, by some really old, crusty guys. Why should I read the Bible?"

[Slide 2 - Why should I read the Bible?]

Well, that will be our question today. How could something written so long ago be useful for someone my age now? Well, a great verse in the Bible that answers that is in 2 Timothy 3:16–17.

Have a preteen stand and read 2 Timothy 3:16–17.

[Slide 3 - 2 Timothy 3:16–17]

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Nice reading! So here's what this verse is saying. No matter how old, or young, or whether you were born 1000 years ago or 1000 years from now, the Bible is USEFUL! What is it useful for? Let's read that verse together again. But this time, let's all read it together.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17 as a group.

Did you catch why it's useful? *(take responses from the students)*

[Slide 4 – "The Bible is useful for:]

[Slide 5 – 1. Teaching]

Right, it's useful for teaching—by giving us instructions and direction to have the BEST life possible.

[Slide 6 – 2. Rebuking and Correcting]

It says that the Bible is useful for rebuking and correcting—how to learn from our mistakes. The Bible is like a mirror. If you looked in the mirror and saw that you had something stuck in your teeth, would you just leave it there and go on to school? No! You would *correct it!* The Bible helps us to see the sin (the mistakes) in our lives and helps us to see how God can help us to deal with that sin.

[Slide 7 – 3. Training in Righteousness]

The Bible is useful for training in righteousness. In other words, it trains us to live in way that brings glory to God and helps others see Him.

So, why is the Bible important to read? **The Bible gives us direction, correction, and training.**

[Slide 8— “The Bible gives us direction, correction, and training.]

Hold up GPS device and power it on.

[Slide 9 – Cover]

Have you guys ever seen one of these? This is a GPS—a Global Positioning System. You find them a lot of time in cars, or a handheld version like this one.

Ask, “What might you use a GPS device for? (*take answers*)

GPS devices are awesome, because they are used to take someone on the BEST journey possible to find something specific! Maybe it's a Geocache, someone's house, or a special landmark. Whatever it is, a GPS is built to guide you to that spot using the BEST way possible.

My family and I like to go Geocaching a lot. If you don't know what Geocaching is, let me explain. There are all these little things (called caches) hidden all over the world. Most of the time they are little containers with little prizes in them. There are literally millions of these hidden all over the world. You walk by them all the time and don't even know it. The people who hide these caches write down their coordinates so that other people can find them. Someone like me, takes my GPS, enters in the exact coordinates and goes on a treasure hunt. It's kind of like that *National Treasure* clip we watched last week. It's a lot of fun and always a great adventure.

Once you enter the exact coordinates, the GPS will give you the directions to get to your cache in the BEST way possible. And it's awesome; it gives you a step-by-step guide (turn left, turn right, go over the bridge). Some of these are so accurate that they will get you within a foot (12 inches) of what you're looking for.

If I make a mistake or ignore the direction that it gives me, the GPS will begin to correct me. It will say things like, “Please stay on highlighted route,” or “When possible, make a U-Turn,” or—my favorite—“Wrong Way Dummy!”

The GPS will continue to correct me until I choose to obey the directions and instruction that it has given me. As I continue on the journey, the GPS lets me know when I'm back on track. It continues to give me direction until I reach the desired destination, or find my cache.

One of the greatest things about using a GPS is that each trip becomes easier and easier because you learn to listen to its directions and corrections. It makes traveling to new places, finding new caches, and starting new journeys even more exciting because you feel prepared and equipped to make it there! You've got the only tool that you truly need.

Why am I talking about a GPS device? Well, because my GPS reminds me of the Bible. Our destination is to become as much like Jesus as possible in the way we live our lives. The Bible—like a GPS—gives us the best and greatest **direction** on how to start and travel on that journey. The Bible—like a GPS—corrects us when we've allowed sin to knock us off the best path. It corrects us and says, "Wrong way, dummy" and helps us to get back on the best path.

As we see the Bible give us direction and correction, we see that it really does give us the best life possible. Therefore, we feel better equipped and trained to do the big things God calls us to do.

[Slide 10 – Ephesians 2:10]

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For you are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

God has created you to do amazing things. He has created you to live an amazing adventure as you serve Him and live for Him. But it only happens when you give your life to Jesus and commit to seeking Him. And then you use the Bible to give you direction, correction, and training in righteousness.

So, why should YOU read the Bible? Notice that none of those verses say that the Bible is only meant to guide older people, or that God only prepared stuff for older people to do.

The Bible is for you! Right now! You're at a really important age in your life. You're starting to think about where you want to go and who you want to be. If you've already decided to follow Jesus, you need to know what the Bible has to say about how to live the life God planned for you... the BEST life possible. If you're still unsure about becoming a Christian, the Bible is a great way for you to know more. It can answer a lot of the questions you might have about life.

The Bible teaches us more about God's grace and His plan to save us. It teaches us how to live a life that brings glory to God. We should read the Bible because **the Bible gives us direction, correction, and training.**

[Slide 11 – Cover]

Pray and dismiss preteens to small groups.

SMALL GROUP

Activity: The Blind Obstacle Course

Supplies: start line and finish line, blindfold, a few small obstacles or cones (be creative: silly string, dodgeballs, splash bombs without the water, etc.) timer

What to do:

Select one preteen and put a blind-fold over their eyes and place them at the start line. Choose another preteen to be his or her guide. Place the obstacles in between the start line and finish line after the preteen is in place. Explain, that when you say go, the guide will give verbal directions to the blind folded preteen to get them through the obstacle course and to the finish line without tripping or knocking into any obstacles, in as quick as time as possible.

All the other kids in your group may shout false directions during the exercise. You can also give them a dodgeball to throw at the blindfold kids as they travel across. Emphasize with the blindfolded kids to concentrate on only their guide to get them through.

Repeat the process a few times, as time allows, choosing different preteens to have be blindfolded & the guide. (mix up the obstacle course as well, if you like) Declare a winner at the end of the game of whoever got through the fastest without touching an obstacle on the ground.

After finishing the activity, use the following as a discussion guide:

Ask: If you were blindfolded, was it difficult or easy getting to the finish line? Explain. Did the non-guides make it difficult? Was it easier if you just trusted and followed your guide?

Say: The world is full of things that try to tell us how to live the right way. Sometimes they tell us the right things, and sometimes they don't. That's why God gives us the Bible, and why it is so important for us to read it. It is the only guide that we have that we know is correct and will ALWAYS steer us in the right direction.

Read: Hebrews 4:12, and Romans 15:4 to your group, or have two preteens read them. Have everyone in the group look up the verses and follow along as they are read.

Ask: Based on these verses and what we've learned today, why do you think the Bible is important for you to read?

Can you think of a time in the last few weeks where the Bible would have been useful in giving you direction in life? (Share a specific time of when the Bible was useful for you).