



The Book – Lesson 5
Writer: Chip Henderson
Project Supervisor: Nick Diliberto
Graphic Designer: [Creative Juice](#)
Editor: Tom Helm

Created by [PreteenMinistry.net](#)

THE BOOK

Week 5: How Do I Understand the Bible?

Bible: Psalm 119:11; Job 19:17; Luke 10:25-37

Bottom Line: The Holy Spirit helps us understand what God wants us to learn from the Bible.

SUPPLIES

Opening Game: 6-8 (depending on the size of your group) identical 20 piece puzzles (or close to that)

Teach: A short clip from a popular preteen TV show (example: Disney's "*Kickin' It*" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLF3BOXFi8A>) but play only 0:06 – 0:53)

IF you choose to use another clip, it needs to be funny and somewhat open for interpretation. So that without proper context, it would be hard to understand.

Small Group: Bibles

OPENING GAME: WHERE IS MY PUZZLE?

In advance: In advance, using a marker or paint, color the bottoms of 8 identical puzzles. Color each puzzle a distinct, different color (Red, blue, green, yellow, orange, purple, brown, black).

Once this is done, take apart all the puzzles. Divide the puzzle pieces up into 8 paper bags equally, mixing up the colors in each bag. Make sure however, that each bag contains 0 of one specific color. With a marker, draw that missing color onto the bag. So, the "red" team should begin with no red bottom puzzle pieces. The "blue" team should begin with no blue bottom puzzle pieces, etc. Divide your group up into 8 equal teams, and give them each a bag of puzzle pieces with their team color on it.

How to play: On go, players from each team must go try and trade to get their correct puzzle pieces. They can only trade one of their pieces at a time for another piece. (It's not as easy as it sounds.) As they bring their correct pieces in, other players from their team can begin trying to assemble their team puzzle correctly. The first team to get their puzzle together correctly with all of their color on the bottom of the puzzle wins.

After the game, ask the following questions:

1. What was it like to go outside of your own group to get puzzle pieces?
2. Could you have put the puzzle together if you hadn't gone outside of your group?
3. Why, when reading the Bible, do you think it's important to read more than one verse at a time? Why might reading a larger section of the Bible help you to understand one verse better?

TEACH

[Slide 1 – Cover]

Welcome back to another week as we talk about The Book; The Bible. I'm so glad that each of you is here this week. I know God has something really cool to teach you about the words He wrote to us. For the past few weeks, we have been asking and answering questions about the Bible; The Greatest Adventure Story Ever Written. Tell me some things that we've learned so far. *(have kids give a few responses, not every point over the past few weeks has to be brought up)*

Nice, you guys have been paying attention. I wasn't sure. So last week we learned that God wants us to spend time with us and a great way for us to do that is to take the time to study the Bible and learn about God. We learned that the best way to study the Bible is to do it in 3 steps. Read it. Understand it. Apply It. Repeat those with me.

Last week we focused on the "read it" part. You can't understand and apply what you don't actually read. God wants to spend time with us by us taking the time to read His adventure story and by learning how to use our spiritual weapon, our sword of truth.

How did you all do with reading the Bible this week? Anyone keep their Bible open near their bed? *(Take responses)*

Somebody want to share something that they read this past week? *(Take responses, or share something you read this week if no kids share)*

Well, that's really cool. So we understand the importance of reading the Bible. But—like I said last week—it's not enough just to read it. Even though it is the greatest adventure book ever written and full of lots of cool stuff, we can't just treat it like a *Hunger Games* book. We have to try and understand what God wants us to learn. What truth do we need to understand from what we read?

[Slide 2 – Psalm 119:11]

Psalm 119:11 - "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

See God wants us to hide His words in our heart. Now, we aren't going to physically shove this book into our body, right? So what does that mean? It means we need to understand what the Bible is saying, and not just read it.

There is a really cool word for this called Hermeneutics.

[Slide 3 – Hermeneutics definition]

Hermeneutics is a word that means interpreting or understanding the Bible. Practicing hermeneutics means you are trying to understand exactly what God is saying.

An example of this is Job 19:17:

(Slide 4 - Job 19:17]

“My breath is offensive to my wife, I am loathsome to my own brothers.”

What does that mean? Why did he say that? Maybe it means he needs to brush his teeth more, I don’t know.

It could mean a million things, so it would probably be a good idea to figure out the correct meaning and understanding if we are going to learn from it.

So how exactly do we do that? Let’s watch this clip from Disney’s *Kickin’ It*, and I’ll see if I can help you to understand this better.

Play a very short clip from a popular preteen TV show; like Disney’s Kickin’ It. It needs to be a clip that is kind of funny and could be interpreted different ways unless you knew the context. Whatever clip you use, make the point that you can’t understand it unless you understand the bigger picture of what it was said, which includes who it was said to and the character that said it.

Here’s how to talk about the Kickin’ It clip.

Now, that was kind of a weird clip. To understand what was going on in that scene and to interpret it correctly, what kind of things do you need to know? *(take responses : who Rudy is, his personality and character; what was Rudy doing in the back; maybe seeing other episode would help understand how the writers write the scripts for humor, etc.)*

You see, to understand what was going on in that clip; we need to know more than just that one clip. It would help if we knew more about Rudy. It would help if we’d seen other episodes of *Kickin’ It* to understand the characters and who is suppose to be funny. It would help if we saw the whole episode to learn exactly what Rudy was doing back there.

Here’s the point.

[Slide 5 - To understand the Bible, you need to understand the context in which it was written.]

To understand the Bible, you need to understand the context in which it was written.

[Slide 6 – Context definition]

Context means the parts of something written or spoken that come before and follow a word or passage and clarify its meaning.

If I just read you a verse, it could mean a number of things. But to truly understand what it is that God wants us to learn from it then we need to look at the context surrounding what was read.

Let's look at that Job verse again. What are some ways that we can find context to better understand this verse? (take responses: learn more about Job, his wife; where he was, what he was doing when he wrote this; what other ways he used the word offensive or loathsome)

Right, so the more that we understand the context (what came before and after this verse) the more we can understand the verse. See, that is the beauty of God giving us instructions on living the best life possible through stories. Most of the time He didn't just say, don't do this! Do this! He gave it to us as a part of the greatest adventure story ever told so that we can better understand Him and His instructions. That's why it's so important to look at the context of what we read.

Now, here is the final point of the day:

[Slide 7 – You are never alone when reading the Bible.]

You are never alone when reading the Bible. What's really cool—and unlike any other book you read or try to understand—is when we give our lives to Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to help us to understand the Bible. God himself comes into us as the Holy Spirit to help us with Hermeneutics. He helps us to understand what God wants us to know from the Bible.

And that is something that you will never get from a Harry Potter book.

[Slide 8 – Cover]

[Pray and dismiss to small groups]

SMALL GROUP

Activity: Tools of the Trade

Supplies: Bibles, Bible tools (Bible Concordance – make sure all of them are the same translation, Bible Dictionary, Bible Commentary, Bible Encyclopedia etc.) paper, pencil

What to do:

Have small group play this activity as a competition against all the other groups. Also, make sure that whatever tools you give to one group, you give to the others.

Say: The Bible is really fun to read and full of some of the most amazing adventures that make up the greatest story ever told. But the Bible is for WAY more than just reading, we need to understand it as well. And that's why we have the Holy Spirit to help us to understand the Bible correctly. But, did you know that God has given us some other tools to help us understand the Bible?

Pull out a Concordance. This is a Bible concordance. A concordance alphabetically lists every time a specific word comes up in the Bible. Let's say, we want to see how many times the word "forgiveness" shows up in the Bible. You can look up the word in a concordance and it will show you every verse that is in the Bible that has the word "forgiveness" in it. (More than I can count. Must be important to God.)

Continue through the list of whatever Bible tools you have provided for each group. A concordance is a must, we also suggest at least one other tool like a Bible dictionary.

The Game:

To play the game, have the first group who can give you the correct answer to each question win. A group can only answer by writing their answer on a piece of paper and running it up to the game leader. Consider giving a cool prize to the winning team (bag of Oreos, Doritos, etc.)

1. How many times the word "steal" is in the Bible? (31)
2. What is the first verse of the Bible that mentions a horse? (Genesis 47:17)
3. Who was Eutychus? And what book of the Bible do we find his story? (man who fell asleep during Paul's sermon and died by falling out a window; Acts 20:9)
4. What was Ananias' wife's name? (Sapphira)
5. How long did the oldest man in the Bible, Methuselah, live for? (969)
6. How many books in the Bible have the word "rainbow" in it? (3)
7. What famous character of the Bible showed pity on Mephibosheth? (David)

8. How did Abimelek (Judges 9) die? (He asked his armor bearer to kill him with a sword, after a woman critically injured him by dropping a millstone on his head.)

After finishing the activity, discuss the following questions:

1. Why do you think it is important to understand what the Bible says, instead of simply reading it?
2. How can you use some of these different tools to understand what God is teaching you through the Bible?

Next, let's actually practice looking up a passage in the Bible and try to understand it. Look up **Luke 10:25-37** in your Bible. Read it and then we will discuss it's meaning together.

Have students look up and read **Luke 10:25-37**. Next, discuss the following questions:

- What do you think is "the message" of these verses?
- Why do you think a story to deliver the message?