

## GOD'S WORD IS OUR GUIDE

### BIG IDEA

The Bible is God's special letter to us. It is like our guide, and it lights up our way as we read it and listen to Him.

### PREP *(Kids can help!)*

**Find** a torch, a mirror and a map

**Find** two large candles for the table

**Cut** out the "Books of the Bible Paragraph" from the appendix to work on as a group (with older children, you can make a copy for each person).  
Keep the answer key hidden!

**Cut** up the Old Testament and New Testament from the appendix pages into words and put them in an envelope

**Buy** treats/biscuits as prizes for everyone

**Put everything into the Faith Box before you start**

### INTRO

*As everyone is gathering, play the Old Testament or New Testament song from your Faith Box CD (or go to YouTube and use one from [www.maynardsgroovytunes.co.uk](http://www.maynardsgroovytunes.co.uk))*



When our family goes on a trip to a strange place, it is important to have some kind of guide to know where to go. What would we use for that? A map – or a GPS?

Imagine walking through a dangerous part of the African jungle. Would you want a guide to show you the way? Today we are going to talk about the Bible and why it is such an amazing gift from God.

Psalm 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." A light on the path helps us see where to go.

The Bible is different from any other book. It is a collection of a whole lot of different books written at very different times through history, but all of it was written by men who listened to the Holy Spirit and who tell the same message about God's faithfulness and Jesus the Messiah. The Bible especially tells us about God's love for us, all his amazing promises and how we should live when we follow Him.

## TAKE OUT THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

PARAGRAPHS and hand them out with the pencils. See who can find the sixteen books of the Bible hidden in the words (don't expect the capital letter to be at the start of each book).

**Clue:** You are looking for Mark, Luke, Kings, Acts, Revelation, James, Ruth, Numbers, Job, Amos, Esther, Judges, Titus, Lamentations, Hebrews, Peter. After a few minutes see how many they have found. Hand out treats/biscuits to everyone who found one of the books in the puzzle.

Now take the mirror, the map and the torch out of the box and choose a child to hold each of them. (Choose them by ages or colour of their hair or socks!)

## EXPLORE

The Bible is where we can go in any situation and it will remind us what God is saying to us.

*Get the children with the torch, mirror and map to hold them up as you say their item and explain how the Bible relates to each one.*

**God says His word is like a lamp to our feet – helps us not to stumble.**

**It's a guide or map – keeps us on the right pathway.**

**It's a mirror – tells us what's wrong with us and the world.**

We are going to read this amazing story. It made a warrior change his way of living when he looked into the mirror of the Bible and the light of God shone on the right pathway for him to go.

## READ

LIGHT THE CANDLES AND READ THIS STORY ABOUT TARORE BY CANDLELIGHT.

### ☪ A STORY FROM NEW ZEALAND HISTORY\*

Tarore was a young Maori girl who was 11 years old in 1835 and lived near Waharoa. When a mission school started up nearby, Tarore went along and learnt to read. She was given her own Gospel of Luke – a part of the Bible – written in Maori and she treasured it. She shared what she learnt at home and her father decided to follow Jesus too.

But there was much fighting happening back then and the mission school had to be moved. Two leaders took the 22 children through the bush, camping at night. Unfortunately their cooking fire was seen by another tribe's warriors who got ready to attack. A dog barked, waking the camp and the mission children fled. But Tarore was left behind in the panic, still fast asleep. She was killed by one of the warriors who also stole her precious book of Luke's Gospel.

Her father was devastated but although he would once have chosen to seek revenge, he remembered that the Bible taught the way of forgiveness.

The warrior later read the book he had stolen while Tarore slept and it made him sorry for what he had done. He decided to make the long trek back to Tarore's father and ask for forgiveness. The message from Tarore's Gospel of Luke spread around the country as Maori shared the Good News of a different way – forgiveness rather than revenge – with other Maori and many people decided to follow Jesus. ☪

*\*The Bible Society has published a book by Joy Cowley entitled "The Tarore Story". You can order it from their website. [www.biblesociety.org.nz](http://www.biblesociety.org.nz)*

*The Bible can change whole communities, one person at a time. It will change us if we hide the words in our hearts. Then when bad things happen we will remember, as Tarore's father did, that there is a new way to live. It will light up the way God wants us to go.*

## QUESTIONS

Why do you think the Bible is called the Word of God?

Can anyone remember a Bible verse they have memorised and hidden away in their heart?

Let them share it and affirm each try.

Who knows what the two main parts of the Bible are called? (*the Old Testament and the New Testament*).

Over the last few weeks we have been reading from the New Testament. The Old Testament describes God's relationship with people before Jesus came to earth and the New Testament tells us about Jesus and the early church.

*Now sort the words from the envelopes on the table into a pile of books from the Old Testament and another pile of books from the New Testament.*

*Check everyone knows which is their left and right, then tell them their left hand represents the Old Testament and their right hand represents the New Testament. When you call out a book of the Bible, they must guess if it is from the Old or New Testament by voting with their hand on the table.*

*Ask the children to listen carefully so they can match the Bible passage to either the torch, the map or the mirror.*

☺ With all my heart I try to serve you; keep me from disobeying your commandments. I have hidden your word in my heart, so that I will not sin against you.

*Psalm 119:9-12*

Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path

*Psalm 119:105*

Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves.

If someone listens to God's word but doesn't do what it says, he is like a person who looks at his face in a mirror, goes away, and immediately forgets what he looks like.

However, the person who continues to study God's perfect teachings that make people free, will be blessed. ☺

*James 1:22-25*

## PRAY

*Let everyone go and get their Bible (if they have one), then turn on the torch. Let each person hold their Bible and as the torch is passed around, shine it on their Bible and say "Thank you" to God that his Word lights up our lives and shows us the pathway through everything that happens to us.*

## LIVE

This week leave encouraging Bible verses under your children's pillows. Try writing them on things other than paper. You could scratch a verse on to a leaf, write on a rock, or make a scroll.

## FAITH BOARD



## OTHER IDEAS

### 1 **Play Books of the Bible**

Sit in a circle of chairs and number from 1 to \_\_\_ to include each family member. Person #1's chair is Matthew, person #2's chair is Mark, person #3's chair is Luke and so on through the books of the New Testament. Have fun making up an action for each book e.g. Matthew was a tax collector so pretend to count money; Mark is the shortest gospel so crouch low in your chair; Luke was a doctor so feel for a pulse; John has all the 'I Am' statements of Jesus, so stand up and shout "I am"; Acts has a lot about Paul so cover your eyes then take your hands away (road to Damascus); Romans were great soldiers so use your arm as a sword etc.

The person on chair #1 begins by doing their chair's action. The person who is sitting on the chair of the second action then does the first (Matthew) action followed by their (Mark) action. The third person does the Mark action and adds their Luke action. So the actions are passed around the circle using the previous person's action and adding their own. If someone makes a mistake they go to the biggest numbered chair.

The aim is to get to the Matthew chair and stay there as long as you can. (When everyone gets too quick and clever with this, go on to a new set of books of the Bible!)

2 When the Bible was first written there was no such thing as paper or books. A very long time ago, people wrote in clay, on rock or on fibre like papyrus. Then they made long strips of papyrus and rolled them up into scrolls. Make your own scroll by cutting a piece of paper lengthwise and taping the two pieces together to make a long strip. Tape each end to a straw and roll up from each end to the centre of the paper. You may want to tie it up with a piece of ribbon. Now you can choose a Bible verse to write on it that you will all try to memorise this week. You could choose a favourite verse, or the first Bible Memory Challenge from the [www.faithbox.co.nz](http://www.faithbox.co.nz) website so the children can earn their first dog tag: the Golden Rule found in Luke 6:31/Matthew 7:12.

3 Illuminate a Bible page. Medieval Bibles were hand-painted and decorated with beautiful art. Copy out the Faith Box verse and decorate the edge of the page as if you were a medieval "illuminator" or artist.

## BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Post-it notes
- Licorice allsorts



## SESSION SIX

### BOOKS OF THE BIBLE PARAGRAPH FOR HIDDEN BOOKS CHALLENGE

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

### BOOKS OF THE BIBLE - ANSWERS FOR PARENTS

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a **fluke**). It kept people **looking so** hard for the **facts** and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised, but the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others it was a real **job**. We want it to be **a most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes, there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it usually** takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. **Relax** now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.



## OLD TESTAMENT

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Genesis      | Ecclesiastes    |
| Exodus       | Song of Solomon |
| Leviticus    | Isaiah          |
| Numbers      | Jeremiah        |
| Deuteronomy  | Lamentations    |
| Joshua       | Ezekiel         |
| Judges       | Daniel          |
| Ruth         | Hosea           |
| 1 Samuel     | Joel            |
| 2 Samuel     | Amos            |
| 1 Kings      | Obadiah         |
| 2 Kings      | Jonah           |
| 1 Chronicles | Micah           |
| 2 Chronicles | Nahum           |
| Ezra         | Habakkuk        |
| Nehemiah     | Zephaniah       |
| Esther       | Haggai          |
| Job          | Zechariah       |
| Psalms       | Malachi         |
| Proverbs     |                 |

## NEW TESTAMENT

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Matthew         | 2 Peter    |
| Mark            | 1 John     |
| Luke            | 2 John     |
| John            | 3 John     |
| Acts            | Jude       |
| Romans          | Revelation |
| 1 Corinthians   |            |
| 2 Corinthians   |            |
| Galatians       |            |
| Ephesians       |            |
| Philippians     |            |
| Colossians      |            |
| 1 Thessalonians |            |
| 2 Thessalonians |            |
| 1 Timothy       |            |
| 2 Timothy       |            |
| Titus           |            |
| Philemon        |            |
| Hebrews         |            |
| James           |            |
| 1 Peter         |            |