

LESSON 6

God's Letter to Us: Scripture

GOAL/PURPOSE: To learn about God's letter to us, the Bible. The most important thing for youth to understand in this lesson is that the Bible is God's Word to us, and it is useful for our lives today as Christians (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The week's reading discusses in detail the Old and New Testaments and different translations and paraphrases of the Bible. Most importantly, it encourages students to think of the Bible as a book for them to read and live by today. It challenges them to stop making excuses and start experiencing God's life-changing Word firsthand!

****Begin the class with prayer. Have 2 Timothy 3:16-17 written on the board.***

****Offer a quick review of last week's lesson or the material so far.***

ACTIVITY:

*** Verse Finder**

*(*Note: Take a few minutes to go over different areas/tools that might be found in their bible; concordance, maps, keys, study notes, etc.)*

You can have students work as individuals or in pairs. Make sure that everyone has a bible. Explain that this will be a special kind of scavenger hunt where you give them an item or word, and they find a verse in the Bible that contains the item or word. For example, if you were to say "prophet," they would find a verse that contained the word "prophet"; then they would stand up and read that verse aloud. Keep score and determine a winner. Possible items or words to find could include: lamb, king, food, weapon, love, grace, article of clothing, mode of transportation, plant, weather, a woman, a woman named Mary, church, money, mountain. The object of this game is to focus students' attention on the Bible and let them search different areas.

DISCUSSION:

- 1) Talk about the Scripture written on the board (it's also in their manuals). What does it mean for the Bible to be "God-breathed" (NIV) or "inspired by God" (NRSV)?
- 2) What are some of the main purposes of Scripture? (shows us who God is, shows us who we are, how we can be in a relationship with God, and how we can do God's work on earth, etc.)
- 3) What is the Bible made up of? (poems, history, letters, etc.)
- 4) How are the Old and New Testaments related? (Both tell of God's covenant relationship with His people.) How are they similar and/or different?
- 5) Take a brief look at the Bible timelines in their manuals. Note the big events, with which they may or may not be familiar. Note key people and the books of the Bible in which their stories are.
 - a. Do any of these stories or characters stand out to you in your lives and circumstances today? Are any obviously relevant to your lives? If so, explain.
- 6) What parts of the Bible tell us about Jesus' life on earth? (the gospels)
- 7) Read over the "Bogus Bible Claims" in your manual. Have you ever believed any of these? If so, which ones?

- 8) What keeps you from reading your Bible?
- 9) Do you really believe that God can change lives through Scripture? If so, how?
- 10) Scripture is an essential part of the Christian life. Pass out a note card to each student and ask them to do these two things:
 - Write out a few ways that they believe God can change their lives through Scripture.
 - Pick one of the books of the Bible below (**Write the five books and their keywords on the board*) based on what keywords they think look interesting. Ask the student to commit to reading the entire book by the end of Confirmation.

**Hand out paperclips and ask the student to paper clip their list to the inside cover of their Bible or Confirmation manual.*

Books of the Bible:

Keywords:

John	belief in Jesus, Son of God
Acts	life in the early church, Holy Spirit
Romans	sin and righteousness
Philippians	to live is Christ, Joy
James	faith and action

MATERIALS NEEDED: one note card and one paperclip for each youth

**Finish with anything else they'd like to discuss (Go the extra mile) and then close the class in prayer.*