

Unit 2: God's Wonderful Word, the Bible

Unit Big Question (and Answer): "What's so special about the Bible? It alone is God's Word!"

Unit Bible Verse: "This God--His ways are perfect. The word of the LORD proves true. The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation." Psalm 18:30,46

Bible Truth 1 Concept: God Made Sure It Was Written Down Just Right

The Bible looks like one, big, thick book; but, it's really sixty-six books, all put together. Many people, over many years, wrote down these books. Some wrote down songs to God. Others wrote down His laws. Some wrote down God's promises and warnings. Others wrote down stories of the great things that God has done for His people; and, how He sent Jesus to save them.

But why do we call the Bible "God's Word", if all these people really wrote down the words? Because God did something very special inside each of those people as they wrote down those words. God's Holy Spirit worked inside of them so that their words weren't just their own words; they were God's perfect words, too. Isn't that amazing? There really is no other book like the Bible, is there?

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Learn a Little: "All Scripture is breathed out by God."

Meaning

Scripture is another word for the Bible. What does it mean for the Bible to be God-breathed? It does NOT mean that God really breathed air out onto the pages of the Bible. It means that God's Holy Spirit was there, working inside of each person as they wrote it to down. He made sure that it was written exactly as He wanted it to be. Every single bit of the Bible is useful to anyone who wants to be a man (or woman/boy or girl) of God. God can use it to teach us about Himself and how He wants us to live. God can use it to change us and help us be who He wants us to be. Ask God to use His Word in your life. He loves to answer this prayer!

Bible Truth 1 ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise you, God, for giving us Your Word, the Bible. We praise You for how Your Holy Spirit worked inside of so many people to write it down just right.
- C** God, You have given us Your Word, but often we don't want to listen to it or obey it. Please forgive us.
- T** Thank You for making sure Your Word was written down just right. Thank You that we can trust it to be true. And thank You for giving it to us, so we can better know You and how You want us to live.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts. Help us to understand Your Word and want to obey it. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bible Truth 1 Story**The Case of the Words that Were Always Right**

Exodus 24; Deuteronomy 5,31; 2 Timothy 3:16

Songs Used in Bible Truth 1

\Big Q & A 2 Song

Big Question 2 Song

Big Question 2 Bible Verse Song: Proves True Psalm 18:30,46, ESV

Extra Big Question 2 Bible Verse Song: His Way Is Perfect Psalm 18:30, ESV

Extra Big Question 2 Bible Verse Song: This God, His Way Is Perfect Psalm 18:30,46, ESV

Extra Big Question 2 (Unit) Bible Verse Song: The Word of the Lord 1 Peter 1:24,25, ESV

Big Question 2 Hymn: How Precious Is the Book Divine, v.1

Big Question 2 Praise Song: The Best Book to Read Is the Bible

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse Song: All Scripture Is Breathed Out by God 2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV

The Case of the Words that Were Always Right

Exodus 24; Deuteronomy 5,31; 2 Timothy 3:16



Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and/or prepare Story Scenes, if using. (Included in the Visual Aids books)
3. Practice telling story with the Story Scenes, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story.
2. Put up Story Scenes/add story action cues as you tell the story. Allow the children to help you put them on the board, if desired.
3. Include the children in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

“Our story is called: The Case of the Words that Were Always Right. Here is your listening assignment... ”

Read from Detective Dan’s Listening Assignment signs, but questions are summarized below:

Detective Dan’s Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

- 1. Whose words were always right?**
- 2. What’s the name of the big book where these words were written down?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

I need to find out:

- 1. Scripture is another word for God’s Word, the Bible. God-breathed means God made sure what people wrote down were His words. Who did God send to help people write down His words just right?**
- 2. What kinds of things did God have people write down to help us live for Him?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but only 4 of them are in the story.

They are: a rainbow, an island, a man in a pit, a crown, a notebook, and two pieces of stone. *Hold up each of them for the children to see as you identify them.*

I need to figure out:

- 1. Which four belong in our story?**
- 2. Which one did God Himself write on? Who did He use to write down the rest of His words for us?**

Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Deep Down Detectives! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can hear the answers to Detective Dan’s questions. When I finish telling the story, we will see if we can answer all the questions.”

Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer.

Listening Assignments answers; the gospel; and, an ACTS prayer are included with the story text at the end.

The Case of the Words that Were Always Right *Exodus 24; Deuteronomy 5, 31; 2 Timothy 3:16*

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

High up on a mountaintop, **SOMETHING** was being written down by **SOMEONE**. Well, what's so special about that, you might ask. People write down things every day. Why, even **YOU** may have written down something today.

Ahhh...but, **THIS SOMETHING** being written down by this **SOMEONE** was very special.

Can you guess what the SOMETHING was that was being written down?

God's Word was the special **SOMETHING** that was being written down. And can you guess **WHO** the **SOMEONE** special was who was writing down **God's Word**? Was it a man? Was it a woman?

Who do you think was writing down God's Word?

It wasn't a man or a woman. It was the **LORD God, Himself!** He was writing down His Ten, Big Rules (Laws), called the 10 Commandments. And He was **NOT** writing them down on paper like we do, but **INTO** two, big pieces of stone. Isn't that amazing!

Now, when you or I write down something, we use a pencil with an eraser. That's because we make mistakes, or decide to change what we want to say. But not the **LORD!** He never needs an eraser. And He always knows just what He wants to say. He **NEVER, EVER** makes mistakes! So, the **LORD** just carved His Ten, Big Rules (Laws) into those pieces of stone and that was that! It was perfect! Just as perfect as He is! He made sure that it was written down just right.

When God finished writing His Ten, Big Rules (Laws) into stone that day was that the end? Was that all there would be to His Word? No, it was not! That was just the beginning! There was so much more that God planned to put down in writing. How much more? Can you count to sixty-six? That's how much more! The Bible would be big, and thick, and made up of sixty-six books when it was all finished.

Have you seen how many words there are in the Bible? It is a very big and thick book, isn't it?

But that **WAS** the only time that God wrote down His Word, Himself. All the rest of His words in the sixty-six books of the Bible would be written down by people.

Uh oh, **PEOPLE** writing down God's very special Words? That doesn't sound like a good idea. People make mistakes. All kinds of mistakes. Remember? They're the ones who need pencils with erasers! How could **THEY** ever write down God's Word on their own and get it just right? God knew the answer. Do you?

What do you think God would do for these people?

God wouldn't have people write down His Word by themselves. He would give them a Helper-- His very own, Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would work powerfully in their hearts and minds. He would make the words they wrote down just right. That's how He made each person's words to be not just their own words, but God's perfect Word, too.

Who were the people God used to write down His Word, the Bible? They were all kinds of people in all kinds of places. Let me tell you about some of them.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

Out in the wilderness, God used an old man named Moses to write down His Word. And oh, what a lot of words God gave Moses to write down! Not tens or hundreds of words, but thousands and thousands of words! Here is some of what God had Moses write down:

Moses wrote down all of the hundreds of other good rules (laws) God gave His people to live by.

And, Moses wrote down the story of how God created the world so beautiful and perfect, back in the beginning of time. He told of the perfect closeness that the first people, Adam and Eve, had with God.

Then, Moses wrote down the sad story of how Adam and Eve disobeyed God and how all people after them chose to disobey Him, too. This was how sin came into God's good world, and why we need a Savior.

Moses wrote down the great promise God made to Abraham. The promise to use Abraham's family to bless the whole world with a Savior: the Savior, Jesus.

And, Moses wrote down God's amazing rescue of the people of Israel from their enemies, the Egyptians, and how He made promises with them to be His special people and He to be their God.

All this and more, Moses wrote down. These became the first five books in our Bibles.

Let's say the first five books of the Bible together.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Say them with me. That's so many books! That's so many words! And every one was God's Word, written down just right! God's Holy Spirit at work inside of Moses made sure of that.

But Moses wasn't the only person God used to write down His Word. God used a lot more people, in a lot more places, to write down the rest of His Word. Let's hear about some more of them.

David sang songs to God everywhere he went. He sang songs to God as he watched his father's sheep at night under the stars. He sang songs to God as he gathered with God's people to worship God. He even sang songs as he hid from his enemies in a cave, sad and scared. God's Holy Spirit helped David as he sang the songs and as he wrote them down. Now we can read them in the part of the Bible called the Psalms.

Have you heard someone read, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want?" Those are words to a song that David wrote down!

God made David's son, Solomon a very, very wise king. He lived in his beautiful, rich palace. God's Holy Spirit helped him write down God's wise ways for us to live. We can read them in the parts of the Bible we call Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes.

A man named Jeremiah was thrown into a deep, dark, muddy pit by people who had stopped obeying God. God's Holy Spirit helped him write down God's warnings to these people. He urged them to stop sinning and turn back to Him. We can read what Jeremiah wrote down in the books of the Bible we call Jeremiah and Lamentations.

The people did not stop sinning. Enemies took God's people away from their homes in Judah and across the dry desert to Babylon. They forced them to be their workers. God's people were very sad. But God sent a man named Ezekiel with them, to give them His words of comfort. His Holy Spirit helped Ezekiel write down God's promises to rescue them from their enemies and bring them back home one day. He even promised to send a special new king who would save them. This king would be a man, but He would be God, too. (Can you guess who this would be? It's Jesus!) We can read what Ezekiel wrote down in the Bible book called Ezekiel.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

God made sure all Ezekiel wrote down all of His promises just right. Every one of them came true. The LORD did rescue the people from their enemies in Babylon. They did get to go back home.

And best of all, at just the right time, the promised Savior was born.

Jesus, God's Son, was born in Bethlehem. He lived a perfect life, then gave it up on the cross as He suffered and died for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, showing that He had really beaten sin and death for them. This was such good news!

Everyone needed to hear how they could be saved. So what did God plan to do? He planned for His people to tell this good news; and, He planned to have it written down!

A doctor named Luke heard the good news of Jesus. He turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. Dr. Luke put down his medicine and picked up his pen! First, he wrote down the amazing things that Jesus did and taught. Then he wrote down what Jesus' followers, the church, did after Jesus rose from the dead and went to heaven.

God's Holy Spirit helped Dr. Luke write down all the stories just right. Everyone needed to know the truth about Jesus that they might believe in Him, too. We can read what Luke wrote down in the two books of the Bible we call Luke and Acts.

Do you ever go to a doctor? Does she or he give you medicine? That's like what Dr. Luke did before he wrote down the stories of Jesus.

A man named Paul hated Jesus and put God's people in jail. But God changed Paul's heart and he believed in Jesus, too. Then people put PAUL in jail for telling others about Jesus!

As Paul sat in jail, the Holy Spirit helped him write words of encouragement to little churches of believers in faraway places. God used Paul to write down more than TEN books of the Bible!

John was one of Jesus' first disciples. He was another man who got in trouble for telling others about Jesus. Enemies sent him to live on an island in the middle of the Mediteranean Sea, so he would stop talking about Jesus. But John didn't stop! The Holy Spirit helped John write to God's people. He even wrote about the wonderful things that will happen when Jesus comes back to earth at the end of time. We can read what John wrote down in the Bible books we call 1,2,3 John and Revelation.

Moses, David, Solomon, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Dr. Luke, Paul and John. That's just some of the people who God used to write down parts of His Word, the Bible. God used many other, too. And what did God do for all of them? He helped them write down the words just right, by His Holy Spirit.

Yes...in the wilderness, in a muddy pit. In a prison cell, in a faraway country, on an island, and everywhere else, God's Holy Spirit was at work inside each one of those people, helping them write what He wanted them to write down. All sixty-six books! And that's what so special about the Bible. It alone is God's perfect Word—written down just right.

Cracking the Case: (story wrap-up for Listening Assignments)

It's time to see how we did with our Listening Assignment.

Detective Dan's Lesson 1 Listening Assignment:

- 1. Whose words were always right?** God's words.
- 2. What's the name of the big book where these words were written down?** The Bible.

For You and Me:

How good of God to give us His words, written down just right! We can learn about Him, His good plans, and how He wants us to live, when we read them in the Bible. And that's just what God wants us to do!

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:
Our Bible Verse is 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

- 1. Scripture is another word for God's Word, the Bible. God-breathed means God made sure what people wrote down were His words. Who did God send to help people write down His words just right?**

God's Holy Spirit helped people write them down just right.

- 2. What kinds of things did God have people write down to help us live for Him?** His good rules; words of wisdom; songs to praise Him with; stories about how God always helps His people; and, the good news of salvation through Jesus.

For You and Me:

We can trust that the Bible is really God's Word. He made sure it was written down just right. God gave it to us, so that we can know more about Him and how He wants us to live. Through it, He gives us everything we need to know. His Holy Spirit can help us understand it and obey it.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a rainbow, an island, a man in a pit, a crown, a notebook, and two pieces of stone.

1. Which four belong in our story?

The island, the man in a pit, the crown, and the pieces of stone.

2. Which one did God Himself write on? Who did He use to write down the rest of His words for us?

The two pieces of stone. He used people, helped by His Holy Spirit.

For You and Me:

God, Himself, wrote down His Ten, Big Rules on the stone tablets, but He sent His Holy Spirit to work powerfully in the people who wrote down the rest of His Word, the Bible. He made sure what they wrote down was written down just right, too. We can praise God for being the giver of His perfect Word to us.

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:****What's So Special about the Bible?****It Alone Is God's Word...****God made sure it was written down just right!**

The Bible tells us so many good and important things. But, the very, very, very best thing it tells us is how we can be saved from our sins. What does the Bible say? It tells us that even though we are sinners who deserve God's punishment for our sins, God sent His Son to save us. God promises to forgive the sins of all who turn away from disobeying Him and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God can help us to do this, if we ask Him. He loves to answer this prayer!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise you, God, for giving us Your Word, the Bible. We praise You for how Your Holy Spirit worked inside of so many people to write it down just right.
- C** God, You have given us Your Word, but often we don't want to listen to it or obey it. Please forgive us.
- T** Thank You for making sure Your Word was written down just right. Thank You that we can trust it to be true. And thank You for giving it to us, so we can better know You and how You want us to live.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts. Help us to understand Your Word and want to obey it. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Go to Lesson Plan, p.9 for the script to the rest of the lesson.