

WHAT EVERY CHILD OUGHT TO KNOW

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PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

These lessons were written because we find that more and more children are unfamiliar with even the most basic Bible truths. Our desire has been to keep the presentations as simple, short and practical as possible. They are not meant to be used simply on their own, but with other Bible lessons which can build on the truths taught here.

This series of basic doctrinal lessons is especially useful in 5-Day Clubs[®], where you are teaching children who have little or no knowledge of these basic truths. In this case, they supplement the teaching of the Bible lesson series. However, they can also be used in Good News Clubs[®], Sunday schools, and even by Christian parents to teach their children in the home. In whichever situation they are used, it is better to stay close to the text, rather than to enlarge on it and make it long and complicated. The idea is that each lesson should be taught in approximately eight minutes.

The artist, Didi Hegnauer, and I are very conscious of our inadequacy to present these great truths as they deserve. However, we trust that through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, these truths will live for you and then, through you, to the children. Our prayer is that through these short presentations boys and girls may be helped to come to a personal knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to grow in Him.

“From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures,
which are able to make you wise for salvation
through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15).

Roy Harrison

Lesson 1

Who is God?

Scripture for teachers

Genesis 1
Isaiah 6
John 12:41

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6 and 1-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6 and 1-7

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 1-1 Who is God?
- Flashcard 1-2 He made everything
- Flashcard 1-3 From ever to ever
- Flashcard 1-4 God is pure and perfect - we are sinful
- Flashcard 1-5 God knows everyone and everything
- Flashcard 1-6 God is good
- Flashcard 1-7 God loves you and me!

Lesson

Flashcard 1-1

PowerPoint 1-1

Today we are going to think for a few minutes about the important question, “Who is God?”

Can you tell me who God is? People have different ideas about God. Some people love God very much, while others do not love Him at all and wrongly use His name as a swear word.

How can we know who God is? It is through the Bible that we can really know about God. The Bible is the Word of God and tells us who God is and what He is like.

Flashcard 1-2

PowerPoint 1-2

Read, or have an older child read, the verses from your Bible.

The Bible teaches us that God is the Creator - that is, He made everything and everybody. The Bible says that “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” and that “God created man” (Genesis 1:1,27).

What did God make the world out of? Nothing! Only God could do that. Have you ever looked at the stars, or at the trees, or at the sea, or at some animals, or maybe a little baby and asked yourself, “Where did they come from? Who made them?”

The answer is God.

Yes, all things were made by Him. Sometimes we hear the thunder roar and see the lightning flash. You and I cannot make thunder and lightning. We cannot make clouds or rain either. We cannot make the wind blow, and we cannot stop the wind from blowing. God makes the thunder, the lightning, the wind, the rain, the flowers and the birds. When we think of our hands, our eyes, our ears, our minds we see how wonderfully we are made. No man could do that - only God. God made everything. He is stronger and mightier than anyone could imagine.

Flashcard 1-3

PowerPoint 1-3

Maybe you are wondering, “But who made God? When did God begin?”

The answer is that God was always there and God will always be there. God is from ever to ever. God does not have any beginning or ending. The circle in this picture has no beginning or ending. This reminds us that God is from ever to ever. He always has been and He always will be. Before there was any world, any people, any animals, God was there and God will always be there.

You find that hard to understand, don't you? You see, all of us were born one day, and we had a beginning. But God was never born and

He will never die. Even if we cannot understand it, yet we can believe it, because the Bible says it. "From everlasting to everlasting, You are God" (Psalm 90:2).

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 1-4

We have been thinking about Who God is, that He made everything and that He is from ever to ever. But do you know that there is something which God cannot do?

Allow the children time to think.

God cannot sin. He cannot do anything wrong. He is pure and perfect. The Bible says that God is holy. Isaiah was one of God's messengers whom we read about in the Bible. One day, God spoke to Isaiah through a vision. A vision is something rather like a dream. In that vision, Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on a throne. With Him were two special angels; each of them had six wings; with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and they used two to fly. These wonderful angels were calling to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isaiah 6:3). When Isaiah saw the vision, he realised how sinful and bad he was, for the vision showed him that God is holy. God is absolutely pure. He loves goodness and He never sins. God always does what is right. Have you realised, like Isaiah did, that God is pure and perfect? This picture is to remind us that God is separate from sin.

PowerPoint 1-4

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 1-5

Something else which the Bible teaches us about God is that He knows everyone and everything. God knows each of your names and He knows everything about you. The Bible says, "The very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:30).

PowerPoint 1-5

God knows everything people do and think. He knows everything that takes place in nature - even the death of a sparrow.

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 1-6

The Bible says, "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord" (Psalm 33:5). Yes, God is good. Everything He has made in the world shows how good He is. When the sun starts to shine through the clouds on a cold day, we say, "How good the sun feels." Without the sun, nothing could live. When the sun gets too hot and clouds cover it and send rain to cool off the ground, we say, "How good the rain feels." God gives the sunshine and the rain.

PowerPoint 1-6

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

By His goodness we have food to eat, friends to play with, homes to live in and so many other good things.

Flashcard 1-7

We have been remembering that God is the Creator.

- ◆ He is from ever to ever.
- ◆ He is pure and perfect.
- ◆ He knows everyone and everything.
- ◆ He is good.

PowerPoint 1-7

And yet our wonderful God loves you and me. What an amazing thing that is!

The Bible says, “God so loved the world [including you and me], that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Lesson 2

What is sin?

Scripture for teachers

Leviticus 13:45-46

Isaiah 1:6,18

Luke 5:12-15

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6 and 2-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6 and 2-7

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 2-1 What is sin?
- Flashcard 2-2 Disobeying God's commands
- Flashcard 2-3 Coming short
- Flashcard 2-4 Our sin separates us from God
- Flashcard 2-5 We are sinful
- Flashcard 2-6 We all do sinful things
- Flashcard 2-7 We must turn from our sin

Lesson

Flashcard 2-1

PowerPoint 2-1

When God made the world, He made everything in it beautiful and good. The first people were so happy. But many things are not beautiful and good today, and people are often unhappy. There is sadness and sickness, suffering and selfishness, quarrelling and fighting. What is the matter? What has happened to spoil this beautiful world and to make people unhappy?

Sin has come and spoiled God's wonderful world. Today we are going to think for a few minutes about what sin is.

Flashcard 2-2

PowerPoint 2-2

Sin is disobeying God's commands (1 John 3:4). God Who made the world and the people who live in it, told them in the Bible the right way to live. He gave them the Ten Commandments, which we have here.

Do not read the list of Ten Commandments and comment on them now, as it would take too much time.

Read, or have an older child read, the verses from your Bible.

God has said, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3) - and we have put other people and other things in the place of God.

God has said, "Honour your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12) - and we have disobeyed our parents.

God has said, "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15) - and we have stolen.

God has said, "You shall not bear false witness" (Exodus 20:16) - and we have told lies.

The Bible says that even if we have only disobeyed one of God's commands, we are guilty of all of them (James 2:10). We have disobeyed God, we have sinned.

Read, or have an older child read, the verses from your Bible.

One day, the Lord Jesus gave in a few words what the commandments are especially teaching. He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength," and, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31). Have we always loved God and others like that?

Flashcard 2-3

PowerPoint 2-3a

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 2-3b

Sin is coming short, or not being as good as God wants us to be. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). What does that mean? Here we see a large gap. Let's call this side where the children are "Our lives," and the other side "God's perfection." We can try to be pure and perfect by the good things we do, but we come short. We may be very good, we may go

to church, we may give money to help the poor and the hungry, but we still break God's laws and come short of God's perfection.

A Pastor once asked a little girl, "Do you know how to get to Heaven?"

The little girl replied, "By being good."

"How good do you have to be?" said the Pastor.

"Awful good," said the girl.

"Are you that good?" asked the Pastor.

"Oh, no," said the girl.

"I'm not good enough to go to Heaven either," said the Pastor.

The little girl's eyes grew big. She was surprised. If her minister was not good enough to go to Heaven, who would be? The Pastor explained how it was only through the Lord Jesus that anyone could have his sins forgiven and be made ready for Heaven. We all fall short of being as perfect as God is.

Flashcard 2-4

What happens to us because of our sin? Sin spoils our lives so that we do not have the joy and peace we should have; sin hurts others; and, most of all, sin separates us from God. God is holy and hates sin. God and sin cannot be together. So, in fact, every time we sin we are disobeying God and this is serious. Our sin deserves to be punished. Sin is like a terrible disease. It becomes worse and worse and spoils our whole lives. We cannot stop sinning, no matter how hard we try. Even when we don't want to, we do the things which are wrong. As we grow up, our lives do not become better but worse. With sin in our lives, we cannot be together with God. We are unclean. In fact, we deserve to be separated from God for ever and ever.

PowerPoint 2-4

Flashcard 2-5

It is not just that we do sinful or bad things, but we are sinful. This is because we are born in sin - born with something in us that wants to do the wrong thing instead of the right. The Bible says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). The bad things we do come from inside our bad hearts. Did you ever wonder how a baby learns to disobey his Mummy and Daddy, to tell lies, to be in a bad temper and sulk? He does not have to go to school to learn to do this. The sin is in his heart and shows itself in his life.

PowerPoint 2-5

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 2-6

We can't stop doing these sinful things which make us ashamed before God. We have no power to change ourselves. God is the only One who can do that. We fight with others - sometimes we try to hurt

PowerPoint 2-6

them with words we say or even with our fists and feet. We steal and take things which don't belong to us. We cheat and try to make believe that we have done all the work ourselves. Then there are other sinful things such as jealousy and hatred, selfishness and wrong thoughts, swearing and bad talk.

All these wrong things are against God. Do you know what the greatest sin is? It is not loving the Lord Jesus. God loved us so much that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, to die for us. The Lord Jesus died on the cross as our sin-bearer. He gave His life and was punished for us. Have you ever asked Him to be your Saviour? Do you love Jesus as you should? The worst sin of all is not loving Him.

Flashcard 2-7

What then should we do when we see we are sinners? We should turn from our sin to God. We should want to have our sins taken away. The Bible tells us what happened to a leper who came to Jesus. Leprosy is a terrible disease from which people eventually die. Jesus was teaching in one of the towns of Galilee, when a man came and knelt down before Him.

“Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean,” he cried (Luke 5:12).

Normally, this man would not be allowed in the city because of his leprosy, but he came to Jesus because he knew he needed to be healed from this terrible disease. How did the leper come? He came just as he was, full of leprosy. He did not try to hide that he was a leper.

How should we come to Jesus? We should come just as we are, telling Him that we are sinners and that we need Him to make us clean from our sin.

The Bible says that when the leper came, Jesus “put out His hand and touched him, saying, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ Immediately the leprosy left him” (Luke 5:13). At that very moment, the leper was completely healed.

Will you come to Jesus and say, “Lord, I am a sinner, You can make me clean?” The Lord Jesus says, “The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37). He will not turn you away, if you turn from your sin and ask Him to save you. It is indeed wonderful to be made free from sin, even more wonderful than to be healed from leprosy.

If you want to ask the Lord Jesus to save you from your sin today, and you do not know how to do it, come to me afterwards. I will be standing over there (*specify a certain place*). If I see you coming to me there, I will know you want to be saved from your sin today and I will talk to you and help you to know how.

PowerPoint 2-7

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Lesson 3

Who is Jesus Christ?

Scripture for teachers

Matthew 17:1-9

John 1:1-12

Revelation 1:9-18

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6 and 3-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6 and 3-7

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 3-1 Who is Jesus Christ?
- Flashcard 3-2 God, the Son
- Flashcard 3-3 Became man
- Flashcard 3-4 Lived a perfect life
- Flashcard 3-5 The only Saviour
- Flashcard 3-6 The Lord Jesus - King of kings
- Flashcard 3-7 We must ask Him to save us

Lesson

Flashcard 3-1

PowerPoint 3-1

Do you know who is the most important Person Who ever lived on earth? Who is the One Who is different from all other men? Yes, it is Jesus Christ. No-one was ever born like Him. No-one ever lived like Him, died like Him, or rose again like Him. That is why it is good for us to take a few minutes to think about who He is.

Flashcard 3-2

PowerPoint 3-2

Read, or have an older child read, the verses from your Bible.

First of all, we are told that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is God. The Bible says, "All things were made through Him" (John 1:3) - that He is the Creator. The Bible says, "He is before all things" (Colossians 1:17) - that He is from ever to ever. He always has been and always will be. He does not have any beginning or any ending.

The Bible says He is pure and perfect (Hebrews 7:26). The Bible says He is all-powerful (Philippians 3:21). The Bible says He is Immanuel - God with us (Matthew 1:23) - and that He is God (Hebrews 1:8). Jesus Himself said that He is God (John 10:30-33). This is why Jesus is different from everyone else.

One day, when Jesus was here on earth, He showed His glory to three of His closest friends. Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a mountain. There He knelt down to pray. The disciples prayed also. Then something wonderful happened. Jesus' face began to shine bright as the sun and His clothes began to shine also. He was so bright that Peter, James and John could hardly look at Him. While they were there on the mountain, God the Father spoke from Heaven and said, "This is My beloved Son ... hear Him" (Matthew 17:5).

Read, or have an older child read, the verses from your Bible.

The disciples never forgot what had happened. Many years later Peter wrote, "We ... were eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Peter 1:16). Peter remembered seeing how wonderful and glorious Jesus was.

Flashcard 3-3

PowerPoint 3-3

How amazing it is that the Son of God became man. Through a miracle God made a body for Jesus, and He was born as a little baby in Bethlehem. The Lord Jesus had a mother just like any other baby, but He did not have a human father. His Father was God. What a change it was for Jesus to leave His beautiful home in Heaven and to come down to our sinful earth. Jesus left all His riches and glory behind and was born in a stable. He came down to earth to show us what God is like and to deliver us from our sin. No wonder the angels sang their praise at the wonderful miracle that had taken place the night Jesus was born, for Jesus is truly God and truly man.

Flashcard 3-4

But Jesus did not stay a little baby. He grew up and lived a perfect life. What a wonderful life that was! Jesus made the wind and the sea calm during a storm one day. He fed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. He healed the sick and raised the dead. He defeated Satan, the enemy of God. He had power to forgive sins. He was the greatest Teacher - "No man ever spoke like this Man!" (John 7:46). Because He lived on this earth as a man, the Lord Jesus understands us perfectly. He knows what it is to be tempted to do wrong, to be hated, to be poor and hungry, and to be made fun of and to be beaten by wicked men. Yet in all His life, Jesus never sinned, even once, in thought, or word, or deed. He is the only One to have perfectly obeyed God's commands. Jesus lived a perfect life.

PowerPoint 3-4

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 3-5

But Jesus came especially to be our Saviour - to make us free from all the sin and evil in our lives.

PowerPoint 3-5

"There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin,
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in."

For hundreds of years before Jesus came, God told the people to bring a lamb and offer it for their sins. Why? Because the Bible says that "without shedding of blood there is no remission [forgiveness for sins]" (Hebrews 9:22). The life-blood had to be given. When a lamb died for a person's sins, it was really a picture showing that one day, the Lord Jesus would die for our sins. The blood of those animals could not take away sin. In the Bible, Jesus is called the Lamb of God. God took all our sins and laid them on His Son. Jesus paid for our sin and our wrong-doing with His own blood. But Jesus rose from the dead. He is a living Saviour and He is the only Saviour - the only One who is able to make us free from our sins.

Flashcard 3-6

The Lord Jesus is King of kings. We have seen how Jesus became a man and lived here on earth. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. But God raised Him up for the dead to live forever. He is Lord of all. He is the ruler of the universe. The writer of the last book of the Bible, a man called John, tells of how the Lord Jesus appeared to him:

PowerPoint 3-6

"His eyes [were] like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ... and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength" (Revelation 1:14-16).

Read, or have an older child read, the verses from your Bible.

When John saw this mighty, glorified Christ, He fell at His feet as dead. This is the Lord Jesus as He is today - He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

Flashcard 3-7

PowerPoint 3-7

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). What does it mean to believe on the Lord Jesus?

Let me use the picture of a watch that is broken. To whom do you take a broken watch? To the butcher or the baker? No! You take it to the watchmaker.

What do you do when you go to the watch-maker? Do you keep the watch on your arm and ask him to fix it. No! You take your watch and hand it over to him and ask him to fix it.

Our lives are broken by sin. Who is the only One Who can fix our lives? Not me, not you yourself. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, is the only One who can fix our lives.

What do we do when we come to Jesus? We ask Him to save us and to take full control of our lives. In other words, we hand our lives over to Him and trust Him to fix them. When we trust the Lord Jesus in this way, our sins are forgiven; God makes us His children; He sees us with the goodness of the Lord Jesus; He gives us new life; He comes to live in us by His Spirit.

Are you willing to ask the Lord Jesus to save you? The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Lesson 4

What did the Lord Jesus do?

Scripture for teachers

John 19 - 20

Acts 1:8-11

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6 and 4-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6 and 4-7

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 4-1 What did the Lord Jesus do?
- Flashcard 4-2 Christ died for our sins
- Flashcard 4-3 He rose from the dead
- Flashcard 4-4 He went up to Heaven
- Flashcard 4-5 He is alive forever
- Flashcard 4-6 He will come again
- Flashcard 4-7 Are you ready to meet Him?

Lesson

Flashcard 4-1

PowerPoint 4-1

There is a story about a hen that was sitting with ten baby chicks under her wings. Suddenly the dry grass caught fire and the whole area was soon ablaze. The next day the farmer came back and found in the yard the body of the dead hen. When he gently pushed it aside, ten little chicks ran out from under her wings. The hen had died, but her chicks were safe and alive. The hen could have flown away and saved herself, but she had stayed on her nest and given her life so that her chicks would not be burned.

That reminds me of what the Lord Jesus did for us. He died to save us from our sin, so that we would not have to be punished.

Flashcard 4-2

PowerPoint 4-2

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

The Bible says, "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3). At Easter we remember Christ's death and resurrection. Do you remember what happened? The Lord Jesus was taken and whipped and beaten, even though His enemies could not find anything which he had done wrong. The soldiers led Him to a hill outside the city of Jerusalem. There on that hill Jesus was nailed to the cross with nails through His hands and His feet. For six hours Jesus hung on that cross - from 9 o'clock in the morning to 3 o'clock in the afternoon. At mid-day it became absolutely dark. Why? Because God was laying on Jesus all our sin, as He had promised to do in His Book, the Bible.

It is as if God picked up in one hand all the sin of those who believed God before Jesus came and in the other hand the sin of all who would believe in Him afterwards. It was as if He brought these hands together over the head of the dying Lord Jesus, and laid on Him all our sin and wrong.

Read, or have an older child read, the verses from your Bible.

The Lord Jesus died in our place on the cross to pay the punishment for us. The Bible says, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). At last Jesus cried, "It is finished!" (John 19:30) and "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46). Then He died. No man took His life from Him. He could have come down from that cross if He wanted. But He gave up His life on purpose, as He said He would, so that He could save us.

Flashcard 4-3

PowerPoint 4-3

The body of the Lord Jesus was taken and laid in a tomb - a hole cut into the side of a big rock. A large stone was rolled in front of the entrance. But Jesus did not stay in the tomb. He is not dead. God raised Him up from the dead to live for ever. What a wonderful miracle that was! Jesus arose and after His resurrection, He showed Himself to His disciples and others many times (including over

500 people at one time). They saw Him, they touched Him, they talked with Him, they ate with Him.

Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that He is truly the Son of God, and all that He said is true. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that the price of sin has been completely paid.

Flashcard 4-4

Forty days after He had risen from the dead, as the Lord Jesus was talking with His disciples, He suddenly began to rise into the air. Higher and higher He went until a cloud covered Him, and the people could not see Him. The Lord Jesus had left this world. He went back to Heaven, to be with His Father. Jesus in His wonderful risen body is in Heaven now.

PowerPoint 4-4

Flashcard 4-5

When the Lord returned to Heaven, God the Father gave Him the place of highest honour. Jesus is King of kings, He is Lord of all. He is alive forever. Because Jesus is alive forever, He understands all about us and prays to God the Father for us who know and love Him. Because Jesus is alive forever, He is able to help us in our need (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15-16, 7:25).

PowerPoint 4-5

Flashcard 4-6

People always want to know what is going to happen in the future. Do you know the most important thing that is going to happen in the future? Jesus is going to come again to earth, not as a little baby, but in great power and splendour. We do not know when He will come - it could be today. But He has promised, "I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3). Jesus will come again, first of all to take to Heaven those who belong to Him. But He will also come to judge those who have not received Him as their Saviour, and to reign as King.

PowerPoint 4-6

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 4-7

Are you ready if the Lord Jesus was to come today? Would you go to be with Him for ever in Heaven, because you belong to Him, or will He have to say to you one day, "I never knew you; depart from Me" (Matthew 7:23) - "Go away from Me. I have never known you to be My friends".

PowerPoint 4-7

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

How can we be ready to meet the Lord Jesus? We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He took the punishment for our sin on the cross. We must turn from our wrong way and trust Him to save us from our sin and to keep us. It is not enough to believe that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, that He lived a perfect life, that He died on Calvary, that He rose again and went back to Heaven. You have not really believed in Him until you trust Him to save you from

your sin. If you want the Lord Jesus to save you, you can say to Him, “Dear Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. I ask you just now to save me from my sin.”

The Bible says, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Lesson 5

What is the Bible?

Scripture for teachers

2 Timothy 3:14-17

2 Peter 1:19-21

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6 and 5-7

Or

- ◆ PowerPoint slides: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6 and 5-7

Lesson outline

- Flashcard 5-1 What is the Bible?
- Flashcard 5-2 The Word of God
- Flashcard 5-3 Absolutely true
- Flashcard 5-4 Everlasting
- Flashcard 5-5 Complete
- Flashcard 5-6 Able to change lives
- Flashcard 5-7 Read it, believe it, learn it and obey it

Lesson

Flashcard 5-1

PowerPoint 5-1

If your Mummy and Daddy were in some far-off land across the sea, they would not be able to talk to you every day. You would not be able to see them. But there is a way for you to hear from them and find out what they want you to know. They could write you letters or e-mails. God wanted to talk to us. But God could not let us see Him, as He is a Spirit (John 4:24), and His glory is so great that we would be blinded by it. But God has a way in which He can talk to us. He has sent, as it were, a long letter for us to read, so that we can know what He wants us to know and to do. His "letter" is the Bible. Yes, the Bible is God's letter to us.

Hold up a Bible for the children to see.

Flashcard 5-2

PowerPoint 5-2

God did not write the letter with a pen as we would. Instead, He chose, at different times, about 40 men who loved Him; He guided them to write the books of the Bible (2 Peter 1:21). The first part of the Bible was written about 3,400 years ago, and the last part about 1,500 years later. That is a long time ago. God guided in all that was written down. He even guided in every word used (2 Timothy 3:16). God also saw to it that what was written was not lost and was finally printed in our Bibles. The Bible is truly the Word of God.

Flashcard 5-3

PowerPoint 5-3

Do you think that the men who wrote the Bible made any mistakes as they did it? No, God kept them from mistakes. All the Bible is absolutely true. How do you know that the Bible is true?

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

One reason is that Jesus said so, and everything He says is true. He said, for example, "Your word is truth" (John 17:17). God's Word, the Bible, is truth.

Another reason is that the Bible told about things that were going to happen in the future, and these things actually happened. For example, hundreds of years before the Lord Jesus came to earth, over 300 special things which were going to happen to Him, were written in the Bible. All of these things happened exactly as the Bible had said.

Another way we know that the Bible is true is because it tells us how our sins can be forgiven and our lives changed, when we ask the Lord Jesus to be our Saviour. Every time someone turns to Jesus and truly trusts Him to forgive their sins, that person's life becomes very different. This is another proof that the Bible is true.

Flashcard 5-4

Have you ever had someone make a promise to you and he didn't keep it? Sometimes people say things which you cannot depend on. But God's Word, the Bible, is different. God's Word never changes - it is everlasting. Even if everyone else fails you, remember Jesus said, "My words will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

God's Word is everlasting. People have tried to stop the Bible from being printed - they have even tried to burn it. Over 100 years ago, a man called Voltaire said, "100 years from now no-one will read the Bible." But today, the Bible is still read by more people and printed in more languages than any other book. People still love the Bible today, because it is God's Word and you can depend on it completely, for it lasts forever.

PowerPoint 5-4

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 5-5

The Bible is complete - it is finished. God has warned against anyone adding more to the Bible or taking anything away from it (Revelation 22:18-19). In this one Book, the Bible, there are 66 books. Each one has a different name. God caused the writers of these books to write all that He wanted us to know. The Bible tells us of "the faith which was once for all delivered" (Jude 3). God has shown us once for all what we are to believe and what we are to do. The Bible is God's only letter to us. Other people can write and say wonderful things, but they are not like God's "letter."

PowerPoint 5-5

Flashcard 5-6

This wonderful Book, the Bible, is able to change lives. It is a powerful Word which shows us our sin, brings us to new life in Christ and makes us strong Christians. The Bible is indeed "the power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16).

PowerPoint 5-6

The main purpose of the Bible is to lead us to put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and to live for Him (John 20:31). The Bible tells us the story of a little boy called Timothy whose mother and grandmother read the Bible to him when he was a child. Later Timothy trusted the Lord Jesus for himself, and the Lord Jesus saved him from his sins. Later still he became a missionary and went to many other places to teach people about the Lord Jesus. Timothy's life became an example to many others of what God can do.

Do you want God to change your life? Then do what Timothy and many others and I myself have done - believe the Bible, turn from your sin and ask the Lord Jesus to come into your heart and life. The Bible says, "He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him" (Hebrews 7:25). If you want to talk to me more about how to do that, then please wait behind after the meeting. Come to me and say, "I would like to know more about how to ask Jesus into my heart and life."

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Read, or have an older child read, the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 5-7

PowerPoint 5-7a

What then should we do with the Bible? We should read it, or listen to others who read it to us.

How would you feel if you wrote a letter to someone who didn't bother to read it? God wants us to read the Bible often - each day, if possible.

PowerPoint 5-7b

We should believe the Bible. We do not always understand everything which is written in the Bible, yet we should take God at His Word. If others want to doubt the Bible, let them do so - but may it be settled in our minds that the Bible is the Word of God. God's enemies (especially) want us to doubt what the Bible says.

PowerPoint 5-7c

We should learn by heart verses from the Bible. We cannot carry our Bibles with us everywhere we go, but if we learn some of the verses we can carry God's Word in our heart. God wants us to do this.

PowerPoint 5-7d

We should obey the Bible. When you read the Bible or listen to it being taught, make sure you do what it says. This is the way to be truly happy, by doing what God says.

PowerPoint 5-7e

I hope that you will be able to truly say, "Oh, how I love Your law!" (Psalm 119:97). Oh, how I love the Bible!

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).