

4. BOOKS

Welcome the children then quieten them for the Opening Prayer.

Pray: Thank You God for bringing us all together again. Please help us to listen and understand what we hear. Amen

Book Activity



Gather together all the books brought by the Juniors. Let the Juniors separate them into Bibles/ film books/ story/ non-fiction, etc. Now let the Juniors put the Bibles onto piles. This may be King James, New International, Good News etc.

Talk

Talk about the different types of books e.g. Annuals have a selection of subjects within them, some books tell about a true adventure, some tell about what the author has seen.

Why are there so many types of Bibles? Different translations were written to make the Bible available and easy to understand for the people of that time. (Before the King James version, Bibles were only written in Latin. Most people could not read it for themselves.) Ask the children to look through a Bible keeping in mind that they may never have seen one before. What do they notice? - index, pictures, maps? Look at the layout: headings, chapters, verses. The numbering is to help us find particular parts of the writing. Explain that the Old Testament was written before Jesus was born and the New Testament was written after He was born. Very often the “books” were written by, or for, the people in the title. The different Books are of various types i.e. stories, poetry and song, history, and advice and teaching. The Bible is similar to a good annual!

‘**Gospel**’ means good news. Learn the names together: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Repeat often. To make it more fun, ask the girls to say them, the boys to say them, say in a whisper, shout them out, stand on one leg, only those wearing trainers etc.

Sword Drill

Write on an acetate or flip chart – “The sword of the Spirit is the word of God.” Ephesians 6: 17 The Bible is described here as a Sword because we use it to fight the Devil. A sword is kept in a sheath hung from the belt at hip level. Give these commands:

“Sheath swords” – hold your Bible at hip level

“Draw swords” – lift Bibles high above your head

“Charge” – Bibles are lowered ready to be used.

Repeat “**Ephesians 6: 17**” together. Try this again. Explain that now you are going to have a competition to see who can find a Bible verse first. Give commands ‘sheath’ and ‘draw’ and then give a verse to find. The Juniors repeat the verse reference several times before the ‘charge’ command is given. (Confine the verses to the Gospels until they are familiar with the order. As the weeks go by, the next few books of the New Testament can be added and the order learned.)

When a Junior finds the verse, s/he stands up. When several, or all, are standing, ask the first up to read the verse slowly and clearly. A quick comment can be made about the verse meaning. Help those with most need and encourage the more able to help others too.

Here are six suitable verses to find:

Matthew 5: 18

John 3: 16

Luke 10: 27

Matthew 4: 4

John 1: 2

Mark 10: 27

Sing

Songs are announced clearly and loudly by the Junior as described in the lesson 3. S/he can choose the children who put up their hands for their favourite song. (Be aware of favouritism and dominating children.)

☺ Bible reading

Matthew 4: 1-11 Notice how Jesus used His knowledge of verses from the Bible to defeat the Devil.

☺ Chain Prayer

Junior reads the three prepared ideas and explains that they can use one or two of them. Juniors could be encouraged to add other topical or personal ideas. When each child has an idea in their head, or written down, begin.

Sing

JP 234 'The best book to read is the Bible'

Prayer

"Lord God, we thank You that we can learn about You by reading our Bibles. Help us to enjoy reading it and help us to understand it. Please take us home safely and be with us till we meet again. Amen.

FOR NEXT WEEK

Choose Juniors to prepare:

- Songs
- Bible Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17
- 3 chain prayer ideas
- **Sword Drill:** At the back of the Good News Bible, there is a simple concordance. Explain to the Junior that s/he will choose the sword drill verses for next week by looking up "Covenant". Choose four –six verses within their Bible knowledge limitations from this section. Then put a marker in each place ready to lead next week.
- **Role play 1 -** Write this out for two Juniors.

Mum: I would like you to tidy your room today.

Child: I'll do it after school. I promise.

That evening before bed:

Mum: You haven't tidied your room, have you?

Child: I'm sorry. My friend called round to play and then we watched that great new programme on T.V. I forgot!

- **Role play 2 -** Choose two more Juniors.

A: Wait for me after school, will you? We can then go and play (choose favourite pastime)

B: Yes. I'll meet you at the gate at bell time.

Later-

A: I waited ages for you to come. You didn't come at bell time as you said.

B: It wasn't my fault. Someone in the class lost money and the teacher kept us all in until it was found. Sorry.

Leader's Preparation

Attendance record: prepare cards or an attendance register.

Promise: Write on acetate or flip chart. **My aims in C.E. are to attend every week, to arrive on time, to listen well and to please God in all I do.**

Quiz: Prepare 10 questions for a noughts and crosses quiz from Genesis 9: 8-17 and availability of flipchart or OHP projector.