





Lesson One: The Bible – An Adventurous Book

Teacher Goals

-  Teach kids history of the Bible and how it wasn't always in English.
-  Talk about how the Bible is an adventurous book, how some people have risked their lives to get it in their own language, and how some people are still working hard to get it in their language.
-  Lay foundation for the remaining lessons that discuss various languages around the world by helping kids understand the importance of everyone having the Bible in the language they understand best.
-  Begin to practice Revelation 7:9-10 as the memory verse for Kate and Mack lessons.

Teacher Prep

1. Prep DVD/TV or laptop to play Kate and Mack's video (optional).
2. Make large memory verse (Revelation 7:9-10) poster for easy reading as a class (optional).
3. Make copies of decoding activity and memory verse card.
4. Have "Holy Bible" written in Hebrew (included in today's lesson packet).
5. Have world map out where kids can see it.

Intro Time & Lesson (15-17 Minutes; 20 if Video is Included)

To start the morning, gather the kids together for group discussion.

Good morning, kids! Today we're going to learn about the Bible.

How many of you read stories from the Bible with your mom

or dad? Allow them to interact with you, giving answers. **What language do you read these stories in?** Kids will answer, most likely with “English.” **I read it in English too! But did you know that the Bible wasn’t actually written in English? In fact, it was first written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.**

Hold up “Holy Bible” written in Hebrew. **Can any of you read this for me? I’m not sure what it says.** Let the kids interact or make guesses, or say that they don’t know how to read it either. **This says “Holy Bible” in Hebrew. Can you imagine trying to read stories from the Bible in Hebrew, when we can’t even understand what this says?**

Thankfully, someone named John Wycliffe decided that he wanted to be able to read the Bible in English. He lived in the 1300s, back in a time when the Church only read the Bible in Latin. People couldn’t read the Bible for themselves at all! They just had to listen to it in another language that they understood only a little bit.

But John Wycliffe thought it was important that people should be able to read the Bible for themselves. That’s why he worked on translating it into English. And now we can read it for ourselves, whenever we want! Isn’t that wonderful? Let kids respond, ask questions, make comments, etc.

I want you to think of a word or phrase that first comes to your head when you hear the word “Bible.” Maybe something like “truth” or “God’s Word.” What would you choose? Let kids respond, sharing their choice of word or phrase.

Those are all great! Would you ever think of the word “adventurous”? Think of all the interesting stories in the Bible — Moses parting the Red Sea, David and Goliath, Daniel and the lion’s den. All of those are adventures, aren’t they? The Bible is full of stories that are filled with adventure, and even danger.

Did you know that you could also say that having or reading the Bible is “dangerous”? Let kids respond to that statement. I know, you might think that’s a silly thing to say. But it’s really not! Lots of people have gone through really hard times to get the Bible into their language, and some people have even died trying because it tells the story of God’s love and frees people from their sin. And we know that the devil wants people to not know of God’s love for them!

Even though we have the Bible in English, lots of people around the world still don’t have the Bible in their own languages yet. That’s why we’re going to spend some time learning about four different languages over the next few weeks. These languages are either still waiting for the Bible, or have already had the whole Bible translated for them! And we’ll get to see how excited people are now that they can read about God’s love for themselves.

Kate and Mack are two of my friends from Wycliffe Bible Translators who are going to help us learn about these languages. Let’s meet them now!

Play Kate and Mack video (optional).

That was fun! We’ll visit with them again when we learn more about the Bible and languages around the world.

Next time you read the Bible in English, you can thank God for the people who have worked to translate it so we can read it all by yourself. And you can pray for people who don’t have it yet!

Activity (8-10 Minutes)

We learned that the Bible is an adventurous book and that it’s been hard for people to translate it into their own language, so let’s try “translating” for ourselves! This isn’t a real language, but

decoding the message can give us an idea of what it's like to translate the Bible from one language to another.

Hand out decoding activity and decoder sheet. If kids aren't able to complete the activity in the time allotted, encourage them to take it home and finish it there.

Memory Verse (5 Minutes)

We learned today how the Bible wasn't always in English, right? Being able to read and understand it for ourselves is really important! That's why it's important that every language in the whole world has the Bible translated for them, so that they can read and understand it too.

In the book of Revelation we learn that one day, people from all around the world will be in heaven together! We'll all be praising God in our own languages, and he'll be able to understand us because he speaks all the languages ever spoken. Let's practice reading this verse together.

Pass out memory verse cards so the kids can read along with you and take the verse home. If you've made a bigger poster, you can also have them track along with that. As a class, read:

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

- Revelation 7:9-10 (NLT).

We're going to work on memorizing that verse when we learn about different languages around the world! So keep it somewhere

you'll remember to look at it when you get home. Maybe on your fridge, or the bathroom mirror, or even inside your Bible so you can read it every day.

Snack (5-8 Minutes; Optional)

Prayer Time (3 Minutes)

Even though having or reading the Bible isn't really dangerous anymore for people like us who speak English, it still is for a lot of people speaking different languages all around the world. We need to pray that God will keep people safe and help them as they try to translate the Bible. That way, people everywhere can read it in their own languages and know all about God's love!

Pray for the class, or see if one or two kids would like to volunteer to pray.