

Confirmation Week #28 - "How To Use The Bible As A Tool Of Faith"

Lesson Preparation

Topic: To help class members understand that the Bible is a tool of faith - in fact many different tools. To give class members practice in using the Bible in a variety of ways and to see how different passages of scripture have different purposes.

Core Teaching: As one of our Articles of Religion states, "the Bible is the true rule and guide for faith and practice". In order for us to use the bible as a tool of faith and practice, we must first learn how to use it.

Small Group Resources: Each small group will need - Bible Search game board & cards, (a model of what the game board is to look like is found in the curriculum), Bibles for each group member (from the closet for those without one), pencils, note cards.

Preparation: Make sure the Home Improvement skit is ready, complete with a well stocked tool belt, tool box with Bible in it for opening skit.

Scripture: **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21

First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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Large Group

Singing: Music team sings 2-3 high energy songs.

Offering: Two students bring the offering collection box to the leader.

Doxology: Sing Doxology

Affirmation of Faith: Have the class join together in reciting the "Apostle's Creed".

Stump the Preacher: Lead teachers will assign a parent leader to read questions from the confirmation members. Reverend, Walt Marcum will attempt to answer. . .

Introduction to the lesson: **1. "Home Improvements" Skit**
Introduce the "Home Improvement" skit by first showing the You Tube video clip of Tool Time part I. (see power point for video clip)

Example Skit:

Leader 1: (dressed in a tool belt with a variety of tools) Look at all my tools I have here! I can build just about anything with these things. Unlike Tim, I can really use these things.

Leader 2: Oh, yea, tell me now, what kinds of things do you build?

Leader 1: Well, just last weekend, I built a shed out back to store my even bigger power tools.

Leader 2: Wow, you're sure into this tool thing.

Leader 1: Absolutely, and I'm no novice either. I've worked years to learn how to operate each one of these. I've read manuals, taken classes, practiced tons! This has taken quite a lot of time to master all of these tools. You know, if I don't use these tools properly, they can even be dangerous. See here, I have a jigsaw, a power screwdriver, etc. etc.

(Leader 2 spends some time looking at the tools and commenting on them.)

Leader 2: That is really cool and you know what? Your tool belt reminds me of a tool I have that actually is a lifesaving tool. (Leader 2 opens his toolbox and pulls out a bible.)

Leader 1: Let me see that thing. Wow, that's thick.

Leader 2: (laughing) You got that right. This Bible is actually a whole toolbox full of all kinds of different tools for us to use. Like your tools, it's only good if I know how to use it. That's why it's so important to know how to use it the right way. This isn't no ordinary book. This is the Holy Scripture containing all things necessary to salvation. We believe that this reveals the Word of God and is the true rule and guide (hold up a ruler from Leader 1 tool belt) for our faith. You can find so much in here.

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You see, maybe you could drive a nail in without a hammer, but a hammer sure makes it so much easier. Taking a screw out of an object without a screwdriver would be a challenge now wouldn't it? Same thing with the Bible. As Christians, the Bible is our toolbox and if we know how to use it properly, it can sure make our lives easier. Remember last week when you talked about it being a compass to point us in the right direction, and a map showing us how to get where God wants us to be, and a lifeline, and..... (Leader 2 can pull these items out of his toolbox using the Bible grab bag of items from last week.)

Leader 1 inquires about the grab bag items and **Leader 2** explains how the bible acts as a tool.

Ending the skit

Leader 1: You know, I have invested so many resources into my tools. I have studied to learn how to use them, I have spent time practicing building items, and I have even spent quite a bit on money on them. And they serve me well! Just think of all the things I have to show for my tools. I can see now how your tools are similar in that by investing in studying the Bible, learning scripture, and spending time with God that you too have a lot to show for that. By learning the Bible and living by its word, your life is one that is built on solid rock and pleases God. When life poses a question or problem, how awesome to have this high power tool kit the Bible to reference. What an incredible faith you must have!

2. "Bible Scavenger Hunt"

Have class members move to their small groups. Form a ring around a center point where the game master is.. There should be room between each group for class members to run to the front of the room during the "Bible Scavenger Hunt". And each group should be a equal distance from the leader.

The lead teacher will lead the group in this game. He or she will explain that the groups will be competing against each other for points. The leader will ask for some object, and the first several groups that physically bring their object to the leader will get points. The leader will be trying to "hype" this activity without actually keeping score. There will be two rounds: a "warm up" round and the actual round.

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Large Group

A) Warm Up Round: (all are physical items that need to be brought up by one member)

- 1) A Shoe With Laces
- 2) A 1995 penny
- 3) A Digital Watch
- 4) A Photo ID (Driver's License, etc.)
- 5) A person with blue eyes.

B) Actual Game (all found in the Bible)

CHALLENGE: to bring the Bible forward and point to the exact place where the item of information is located. Each class member needs to have a Bible.

ITEMS TO BRING UP:

1. The table of contents for the Bible
2. The creation story
3. EXTRA BONUS POINTS: The other creation story.
4. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son . . ."
5. The story of Samson
6. The Christmas story with the manger, the shepherds and the angels
7. EXTRA POINT BONUS: the other Christmas story
8. A Bible map.
9. A cross reference.
10. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want . . ."
11. A letter from the Apostle Paul
12. Noah and the Flood
13. The place where Noah took 2 of each animal.
14. The place where it says Noah took 7 pairs of each animal (Genesis 7)
15. A "Book of Moses"
16. The Sermon on the Mount
17. The Lord's Prayer
18. A Proverb
19. A song
20. A prophecy
21. A Vision of the end of the world.
22. A law
23. History

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NOTE: We will not be able to do all of the scriptures in the list. Either the class will begin to lose interest or we will run out of time. Pre-select the items you want to use.

Prayer: Large group leader closes with prayer.

Dismiss to small group: Students follow small group leaders to their respective locations.

Small Group

Opening Prayer: Begin the small group session with a prayer. You may want to do a sentence completion prayer, a "build a prayer", or ask for a volunteer to pray. The main idea is for the youth themselves to pray. This is how they learn and how they become comfortable with prayer.

Discussion: Take a few minutes to debrief the opening session with your small group. Use the following questions to guide you, or questions you have devised.

Debriefing the opening skit:

- 1) What did you think about the opening skit?
- 2) Did it surprise you when the leader took a Bible out of the tool box?
- 3) Is the tool kit image helpful for thinking about the Bible and how we use it? (Why?)

Debriefing the game:

1. When we played the game, which items were easy to locate?
2. Which items were difficult?
3. What made these difficult to find?

Getting To Know Your Bible: Hand out a Bible to each person in the group. Invite them to look over the Bible and to identify the different things that are in a Bible - table of contents, maps, charts, text, footnotes, etc. Try to be as exhaustive as possible. With each item, have the group identify how this part can be helpful.

What We Believe About The Bible: Ask the group if they remember the Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith we covered last week. Remind them that there are two articles which speak about the Bible. These are reprinted below. Have volunteers read these two and then ask the group what these say about the Bible and what we should expect it to do.

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Article V. Of The Articles Of Religion

Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation

The Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation . . .

Article IV. Of The Confession Of Faith

The Holy Bible

We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. It is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice. Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation.

Remind the group: of last week's Bible Grab Bag. See if they can remember each of the items that were in the bag.

"Bible Search" Game: Explain to the group that you will be giving them several stories to find in the Bible. Make sure that you preselect the ones you want to use before the class begins. You can pick these from the list - or add your own. Make sure some are easy to find and locate, and that some are difficult. Use the Bible Search Cards at the end of each seven items we used in last week's grab bag, plus two special categories ('clueless' and "more than one".) Here is what the board will look like:

The Bible Search Game		
A Window helps us see God better	A Family Photo Album helps us to understand our history and heritage better	A Mirror helps us to understand ourselves better
A Compass Points us in the right direction; tells us right & wrong.	A Map Tells us how to get to where we want to go, how to live our lives.	A Piece Of Yarn Gives us something to hold on to when we can't see where we are going

Use the following procedure for each card:

- 1) Have a group member draw a game card & read the topic or quote out loud.
- 2) Give class members some time to try to find the item in the Bible - make sure each group member has a Bible and is actively participating. The group can help.
- 3) Once the item has been located, have the person who drew the card read the passage out loud.
- 4) Ask if this passage (or story) familiar or new?
- 5) Have the person place the card on the square they feel is most appropriate and have them give reasons for doing so.
- 6) Have the group give other alternatives for where the passage might fit on the board.
- 7) If the card is on "clueless", it cannot stay there. The group must find an appropriate place for it.

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Small Group

Repeat the process as time allows. Don't try to cover too many of the scriptures. It's more important to be through with the ones you do cover. The idea we are trying to communicate is that the Bible is a tool of faith (or a whole tool kit). It is important to take the time to show them that the passage is relevant in the area they classify it in. Showing that a certain passage may teach us about more than one area is also important.

Large Group Closing

Announcements/Birthdays:

Sing "Sanctuary": Have the class form a circle and link arms (right over left) before singing.

UMYF Benediction: Lead the group in the UMYF Benediction.

Bible Search Card

Humans made
in the image of God
(Genesis 1:27)



Bible Search Card

Let no one despise
your youth
(1 Timothy 4:12)



Bible Search Card

Paul struggles
with himself
(Romans 7:15-23)



Bible Search Card

Story of Elijah
the prophet
(1 Kings 19:9-14)



Bible Search Card

The New Life
we have in Christ
(Colossians 3:13-15)



Bible Search Card

Pentecost
- the Holy Spirit Comes
(Acts 2:1-9)



Bible Search Card

The Church is
The "Body of Christ"
(1 Corinthians 12:12-21)



Bible Search Card

Jesus is
the light of the world
(John 1:1-5, 16-18)



Bible Search Card

Birth of Jesus
(Luke 2:6-14)



Bible Search Card

The New Heaven
& New Earth
(Revelation 21:1-4)



Bible Search Card

God is Love
(1 John 4:7-10)



Bible Search Card

The 10
Commandments
(Exodus 20:1-17)



Bible Search Card

The Last Supper
(Matthew 26:26-29)



Bible Search Card

Nathan the Prophet
& King David
(2 Samuel 1-9)



Bible Search Card

We are all one in
Christ
(Ephesians 2:13-22)



Bible Search Card

The Lord's Prayer
(Matthew 6:7-13)



Bible Search Card

"Love is . . .
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)



Bible Search Card

Jesus Washes His
Disciples Feet
(John 13:3-15)



Bible Search Card

Parable of the
Prodigal Son
(Luke 15:11-24)



Bible Search Card

Gideon Tests God
(Judges 6:36-40)



Bible Search Card

Songs of David
(Psalm 23)



Bible Search Card

The Golden Rule
("Do Unto Others . . .")
(Matthew 5:12)



Bible Search Card

Creation
(Adam & Eve)
(Genesis 2:7-10)



Bible Search Card

The Fall
(Adam & Eve Tempted)
(Genesis 3:1-8)



Bible Search Card

God Calls Moses
(Exodus 3:1-10)



Bible Search Card

Jesus Weeps
(John 11:32-38)



Bible Search Card

Story of Noah
(Genesis 6:5-12)



Bible Search Card

Jesus Walks on Water
(Matthew 14:22-33)



Bible Search Card

God Calls the Boy Samuel
(I Samuel 3:1-10)



Bible Search Card

The Call of Abraham

(Genesis 12:1-5)



Bible Search Card

The Beatitudes of Jesus
(Blessed are . . .)
(Matthew 5:1-10)



Bible Search Card

Story of Ruth
(Ruth 1:1-18)



Bible Search Card

Your Selection



Bible Search Card

Your Selection



Bible Search Card

Your Selection



Bible Search Card

Your Selection

