

## **Start-Up/Third Grade Lesson Plan**

### **Session 3 – The Bible**

#### **Materials needed:**

- **Dry Erase pen (in tub)**
- **Bag of small candy bars – 2 per student (Please get these for your class. You can turn in the receipt to us for reimbursement.)**
- **Bible**

Before class:

#### **Prayer**

#### **Our Father/Glory Be/Hail Mary**

Say:

**How many of you have heard of the Bible? Most of you, that's good!**

**What is the Bible? That may be a little harder question! Tonight**

**we're going to learn some basic things about the Bible but let's take a fun quiz and find out how much we already know.**

(Use Dry-Erase pen to keep track of correct answers on the white board. Don't tell the class the correct answer at this time – only if they are right or wrong.)

**I'm going to keep track of all the right answers up here on the board. If you can get 8 out of the 10 questions right, I have a candy bar for each of you!**

- † **Who wrote the Bible – men or God?** (Both – God guided and inspired men to write the truth.)
- † **True or False: the Bible took about 1500 years to finish and had 40 different authors.** (True)
- † **What are the first three words in the Bible?** (In the beginning)
- † **True or false: The most important authors of the Bible wrote the longest books.** (False)
- † **Who wrote the first five books of the Bible?** (Moses)
- † **True or false: even though the Bible was written many centuries ago (some of it even 4,000 years ago!) every chapter, every book tells the story of how God saved me.** (True)
- † **There are four Gospels in the Bible. What does the word “Gospel” mean?** (Good news)
- † **What is contained in the Gospels?** (The life story and message of Jesus Christ)
- † **The Bible has 2 testaments or parts – The Old Testament and the New Testament. What does the word “testament” mean?** (Covenant)
- † **How many books are in the Bible?** (73)

**So, how did we do? Well, some of those questions were pretty hard so how about if I give you another chance with the same questions after we learn a little about the Bible?**

- **The Bible isn't like any other book in the whole world.**
- **It has 40 different authors who all lived at different times and in different places but all the books they wrote came together into one story. What? How is that possible?**
- **It's possible because God inspired and guided all the different authors to write the story. So you could say that the Bible was written by men *and* God.**
- **If God went to all that trouble, there must be something very important that He wants us to know. What do you think it is?**
- **So many times these days you hear people say, "If there is a God, why doesn't He speak?"**
- **If I told you that there is a book that God wrote; a book where He speaks directly to you, would you go out and buy it? Would you read it?**
- **God does speak. God has spoken to you personally and it is all right here in His book – the Bible.**
- **Since God did write this book just for you, wouldn't you like to know at least a little bit about it?**

- **Let's take a break and then we'll come back and find out some really interesting things about this direct communication from God to you.**

Stretch break or cookie break in the gym.

- **I'm going to fill you in on some really interesting things about the Bible and if you listen carefully you might be able to answer the questions when I ask them again and go home with a candy bar!**
- **The Bible is divided into two parts: The Old Testament and the New Testament. The word "testament" means COVENANT.**
- **A covenant is an agreement between two people that makes them into a family. A good example of a covenant would be a marriage or an adoption. Why would these be covenants? (Both make the people family members.)**
- **The Bible is the story of a series of covenants that make us part of God's family.**
- **The Old Testament has 46 books and the New Testament has 27 books. How many is that all together? (73)**
- **The Old Testament is the story of the Israelites, the covenants they made with God and how they got ready for the coming of Jesus.**

- **The New Testament tells us all about the life of Jesus, what happened to the Christians after He left the earth, and how we can live as good followers of Jesus today.**
- **There are 4 special books in the New Testament called the Gospels. They tell the life story and the message of Jesus.**
- **“Gospel” means “good news”. Why do you think they got that name?**
- **The Bible took over 1500 years to finish and has 40 different authors.**
- **Some people wrote long books like Isaiah which has 66 chapters. Some wrote short books like the Book of Jude which has 1 chapter.**
- **But each author is important since God inspired what they wrote. No one author is more important just because he wrote more.**
- **The first line in the Bible is “In the beginning”. The last is “Amen” which means “truly it is true.”**

**We have only learned a small bit about the Bible tonight. Please begin to pay more attention to this very special Word to you from God. Listen carefully when the scriptures are read during Mass and hear God speaking to you. Read a little of your Bible every day; ask your parents to read it with you and explain anything you might not**

**understand. Make sure you understand God's message specially written to you.**

**Shall we try the quiz again and see how you do this time?**

**If you have extra time:**

**Play "Bible Hangman"**