

Week 1: Why We Study the Bible

Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 7:24–27; 24:35;
Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; 2 Kings 22:1–2, 11–12; 23:1–3, 21–23

Objectives

Students will . . .

- Describe the effects of both hearing and doing God’s Word.
- Explain at least three things that are true about God’s Word.

Week at a Glance

To the Teacher: Pray for your students daily and prayerfully study the verses given above.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lesson	What Do We Know about the Bible?	God’s Word Stands Forever	Following God’s Word Makes Us Wise	What It Looks Like to Follow God’s Word	Show What You Know
Big Idea	The Bible is God’s Word.	God’s Word is forever.	Following God’s Word makes us wise.	Josiah turned from sin towards God.	Review this week’s lesson content and administer the quiz.
Videos					Jesus Storybook Bible video: <i>The Story and the Song</i> (4:35 min.)
Materials	various books: dictionary, cookbook, storybook, etc.				
Copies	Daily Bible Connection				Show What You Know Quiz

MONDAY: What Do We Know about the Bible?

Isaiah 40:8

Hook: Hands-On Activity

Materials: Gather various books from around your home or classroom. For ideas, see questions below. Make sure students have their Bibles.

Discussion

[Based on the books you have collected, ask questions like those below.]

- What book would help us know how to cook?
Answer: a cookbook
- What book helps us learn how to sing or play a musical instrument?
Answer: a music book
- What book would help us figure out what a new word means?
Answer: a dictionary
- What book helps us learn about numbers?
Answer: a math book
- What book helps us learn about science?
Answer: a science book
- What book helps us learn about history?
Answer: a history book
- How did information get in these books?
Answer: Someone wrote these books—they have an author.
- Where did these books come from?
Answer: Answers will vary.
- What other resources do we use today to help us learn?
Answer: internet, computers, TV, cell phones

[Hold up a Bible.]

- What do you know about this book?
Answer: Answers will vary
- How long has it been around?
Answer: more than two thousand years
- What is in this book?
Answer: God's Word in true stories, poems, wise sayings, letters, histories, and more
- Whose story is this?
Answer: It is God's story.

- Why would we study the Bible?

Answer: It tells us about God: who He is, what He wants, and how He works.

Open your Bible to the table of contents. The Bible is divided into two main parts.

- What are the Bible’s two main parts?

Answer: The Old Testament and the New Testament

- How many books are in the Old Testament?

Answer: thirty-nine

- How many books are in the New Testament?

Answer: twenty-seven

- What is the first book of the Old Testament?

Answer: Genesis

Genesis means “beginnings.”

- Can you find the page for the beginning of Genesis?

Answer: Answers will vary with different Bibles.

Psalms is a collection of poems or songs written for the Israelite people to use in worship of God. Many of the psalms were written by King David.

- Can you find the page for the beginning of Psalms?

Answer: Answers will vary with different Bibles.

- What is the first book of the New Testament? Can you find the page for the beginning of that book?

Answer: Matthew. Pages will vary with different Bibles.

- What is the name of the last book in the Bible?

Answer: Revelation

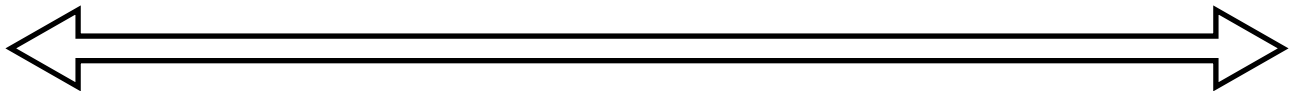
Find Isaiah 40:8. [If students are unfamiliar with the Bible, give them the page number on which the verse appears.]

Read Aloud: Isaiah 40:8

Question for Comprehension: What does Isaiah 40:8 tell us about God says?

Answer: What God says will stand forever.

[Draw a line on the board and have your students stretch out their arms from end to end as far as they can reach.]



This line helps us think about God. God has no beginning and no end. Nothing can destroy God. God will never die. What God says lasts as long as He does. God’s Word—like God—lasts forever.

Isaiah 40:8 shows the huge contrast between grass and flowers, which are temporal (i.e., temporary or passing away) and God's Word, which is eternal.

Discovery Words

1. She gave each of her grandchildren their very own copy of the **Bible**.
Bible—God's Word
2. The doctor said the shot would give **temporary** relief from the pain.
temporary—continuing for a limited amount of time; not permanent
3. Jesus is **eternal**. He has no beginning and no end.
eternal—having no beginning and no end in time; lasting forever

Memory Verse

Isaiah 40:8

TUESDAY: God's Word Stands Forever

Psalm 119:89; Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33

Discussion

Connect to Prior Learning: Yesterday we talked about various books.

- What do we call the book that is made up of what God says?
Answer: The Bible.
- What did Isaiah 40:8 say about grass and flowers?
Answer: They fade and fall. They are temporary.
- What did Isaiah 40:8 say about God's Word?
Answer: It stands forever. It is eternal.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 40:8

Discussion

Isaiah, who wrote our memory verse, was a prophet who was speaking for God to the people. He was not the only one to realize God's Word would last forever. The Bible is sixty-six books written by about forty authors. Let's look at what some of the other books tell us about God's Word.

[If students don't know their way around the Bible, look up the following passages in advance and give students the page numbers. Also, you may want to ask specific students to read aloud specific passages.]

Read Aloud: Psalm 119:89

Question for Comprehension: What does this verse tell us about God's Word?

Answer: God's Word lasts forever. It stands firm.

Read Aloud: Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, and Luke 21:33

Question for Comprehension:

- What did Jesus describe as temporary in these verses?
Answer: Heaven and Earth
- What did Jesus say would never pass away (is eternal) in these verses?
Answer: His Words

Using a two-column chart, compile a list of things that pass away and contrast it with things from God's Word that will last forever. [Students will likely come up with many more ideas than the ones listed here.]

Things That Will Pass Away	Things That Will Last Forever
grass	God—Revelation 1:8
flowers	God’s Word—Isaiah 40:8
fashion	human souls—Matthew 25:46
popularity	angels—Luke 20:36

Things that are *not* eternal don’t have the same value as the things that are eternal. But their temporary quality doesn’t mean they are unimportant.

What people make their living working with flowers and grass?

Answer: gardeners, landscapers, plant nursery workers, and florists

Soon we will be learning about how God created a garden and created humans to care for that garden. God values garden work.

When it comes to contrasting things that last and things that don’t last, would you rather live on a mountain top in a tent or a castle? A castle will last a lot longer and can stand up better against harsh weather. A castle provides a great deal more shelter. In a storm, you would feel more secure in a castle than in a tent.

When we think about God’s Word being eternal, we need to think about how God’s Word is secure. It will never change or fall apart. It will never go away. It may seem strange to think of God’s Word being like a strong castle, but that image may help when you think of why we should trust God’s Word instead of something we hear our friends say or something we read on the internet.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 40:8

WEDNESDAY: Following God’s Word Makes Us Wise

Matthew 7:24–27

Discussion

Connect to Prior Learning: Yesterday we ended our lesson by talking about how a castle will last longer than a tent.

Today we will talk about two houses in the Bible that both go through a storm. One survives like a castle; the other collapses like a tent.

Before we look at the passage, though, have you ever watched a baby when they crawl around on the floor and find things?

What do babies often do with what they find?

Answer: They put it in their mouth.

Putting everything you find on the floor in your mouth is a foolish choice. Babies make foolish choices because babies are not wise. None of us are born knowing how to make wise decisions.

Wise and foolish are opposites.

Question for Comprehension: What are some other opposites? [You may want to give the first half of the pair and see if students can list the opposite.]

Answer: Answers will vary but may include the following pairs—large, small; big, little; long, short; black, white; front, back; head, foot; in, out; up, down; first, last; new, old; beginning, end; strong, weak; hot, cold; hard, soft; thick, thin; rough, smooth; high, low; good, bad; light, dark, day, night; rich, poor; fast, slow; wet, dry; sweet, sour; clean, dirty.

[*Note:* If you have a larger group, you may want to write each word on an individual index card. Hand one to each student. Allow students to walk around the room until they find the person who has the card opposite theirs. Have students sit down on the floor in their pairs until they can share their words with the group.]

Reading Focus: Jesus is telling us about two types of builders.

Read Aloud: Matthew 7:24–27

Question for Comprehension: How is the person described who hears God’s Word and puts it into action?

Answer: The person is described as a wise man who builds his house on a rock.

Women can certainly be wise or foolish as well. What Jesus is teaching applies to all of us.

When builders get ready to build a solid house or building, they dig until they reach bedrock. They want a foundation that is connected to solid rock.

Question for Comprehension:

- What happened to the house on rock once it was built?

Answer: Rain came down. It flooded. Wind blew. But the house did not fall.

- Why didn’t that house fall?

Answer: It was built on the rock, so it was strong and stable.

- What is different about what the person in verse 26 does?

Answer: That person hears Jesus's words, but does not put them into practice.

- How is the person described who does not put God's Word into action?

Answer: The person is described as foolish, like a builder who builds his house on sand.

- What happens to his house when the rain comes, and it floods, and winds blow?

Answer: His house falls with a loud crash.

In Jesus's parable, the houses represent our lives and the storm represents the hard things in life. Each of us is building a life on some sort of foundation. If we are foolish, we will focus our life on what is new and what is now (temporary), like popularity or riches. That's like building on sand. If we are wise and want to weather life's difficulties without falling flat, our foundation must be the solid rock of God's Word.

That's why hearing God's Word—especially in Bible class—is important. But hearing God's Word is not enough. Both of the builders hear God's Word, but only the wise man puts what he hears into action.

Think about It: How would doing what feels right in the moment lead to self-destructive behavior?

Answer: Answers will vary. If we are not actively doing what God says in His Word, we are building our lives on things that will not last. Our lives are sure to fall apart when life's storms come.

Both houses had builders. Both houses experienced storms. The difference in the outcome had everything to do with its foundation—what the house was built on.

Question for Comprehension: According to what Jesus is teaching about building our life, what makes the difference between building on sand and building on rock?

Answer: Actively doing (putting into practice) what you learn in God's Word, not just hearing it, makes all the difference.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 40:8

THURSDAY: What It Looks Like to Follow God's Word

2 Kings 22:1–2, 11–12; 2 Kings 23:1–3, 21–23

Discussion

Connect to Prior Learning:

- What did Jesus teach in Matthew 7 about two ways to build a house?
Answer: Building on rock creates a solid house that can stand strong in a storm. Building on sand leads to a house crashing down in a storm.

Jesus used a house as a metaphor for our lives.

- What did Jesus say made the difference between the wise builder and the foolish builder when it comes to God's Word?
Answer: The foolish person hears God's Word; the wise person hears it and puts it into practice.

Reading Focus: Today we are going to find out what it looks like to put God's Word into practice. To do that we are going to look at Josiah, one of the kings of the nation of Israel.

Read Aloud: 2 Kings 22:1–2

Question for Comprehension: What does 2 Kings 22:1 tell us about Josiah's age?

Answer: He was eight when he became king.

Many eight-year-olds have chores around the house, but most are not ruling a nation. Josiah had many people around him helping him rule as king. One of those was a man named Shaphan. One day Josiah sent Shaphan to find out how things were going at God's temple. (We don't worship today at a temple, but during this time in Israel's history, they did.) For a long time the Israelite people had cared little about following God. Since Josiah wanted to follow God, however, he had people rebuilding the temple.

When Shaphan went to check on progress at the temple, he found out that the Law of God (which was the part of the Bible they had at that time), had just been discovered. It had been in the temple but had been lost.

Shaphan brought the copy of God's Word back to Josiah and read it to him.

Read Aloud: 2 Kings 22:11–12

Question for Comprehension: What did Josiah do when he heard God's Word?

Answer: He tore his clothes.

Tearing one's clothes may seem strange to us, but that was Josiah's way of showing something was horribly wrong. When Josiah heard God's Law, he knew that he and his people had not been doing what God wanted.

Even though Josiah had wanted to follow God, when he heard God's Word, he found out he had not been doing what God wanted. Josiah responded by turning away from doing wrong and turning toward God.

Josiah didn't listen to God's Word so that he would be smarter. He listened so that he could change and obey what God's Word said.

Read Aloud: 2 Kings 23:1–3

Question for Comprehension: What was Josiah making a promise to do?

Answer: serve the Lord and obey all His commands, directions and rules.

Josiah was turning to God by making a promise in front of all the people. In turning to God, Josiah was turning away from sin. To do this Josiah destroyed all the people and idols that had pulled the nation away from serving God.

Turning away from wrong and turning toward God was good—but that wasn't all.

Read Aloud: 2 Kings 23:21–23

Question for Comprehension: What did Josiah have the people do?

Answer: Celebrate the Passover feast

The Passover feast was something God wanted His people to do to remind them that they had been rescued from being slaves in Egypt. The Passover feast also pointed their hearts forward to when Jesus would come to rescue them from being slaves to sin.

It was important that Josiah reminded them about how God is our rescuer. None of us can stop sinning and perfectly follow God. As we get into the next few weeks of Basic Bible, we will find out more about why all of us will fail at trying to please God on our own.

A foolish person hears God's Word but does nothing with it. A wise person hears God word and takes action. The power to act comes from Jesus Christ, who is the only One who can change us.

The purpose of having Bible class each day is not so you can be "Bible smart," it's so you will know Jesus Christ and, by His power, daily practice what God shows you in His Word.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 40:8

FRIDAY: Show What You Know (Key)

Multiple Choice: Choose the letter that best answers the question or completes the statement, and write it in the blank.

- C 1. What is the most important book we will learn about this year?
A. the dictionary B. the encyclopedia C. the Bible
- B 2. What makes this “most important book” so special?
A. It is old. B. It is God’s Word. C. It is pleasant to read.
- A 3. *True/False:* This “most important book” tells God’s story.
A. True B. False
- C 4. Based on what Jesus said in Matthew 7, all those who hear Jesus’s words and put them into practice are _____.
A. tall B. foolish C. wise
- B 5. Why was the fool’s house destroyed?
A. There was an earthquake.
B. He built it on the sand.
C. It was old.
- A 6. Why wasn’t the wise man’s house destroyed?
A. He built it on a strong foundation.
B. No storm came to his house.
C. He built it with bricks.
- B 7. Josiah tore his clothes when he heard God’s Word because he
A. was angry that Shaphan had found it
B. was sorry he and his people had not done what God said
C. didn’t want to follow God’s Word
- C 8. What promise did Josiah make?
A. He would go to the temple every day.
B. He would build a new temple.
C. He would serve the Lord and obey all God’s rules, commands, and directions.

Short Answer: Read Isaiah 40:8 and answer the following questions. Write your answers on the lines provided.

9. What will happen to flowers and grass? they will die

10. How long will God’s Word stand? forever

Video

View the Jesus Storybook Bible video *The Story and the Song* (4:35 min.)

Video Discussion

[Create a two-column chart showing what the Bible **IS** versus what the Bible **IS NOT**.]

The Bible IS . . .	The Bible IS NOT . . .
about God and what He has done	a book of rules
an adventure story about a young Hero	mainly about you and what you should be doing
a love story about a brave Prince who leaves everything to rescue the ones He loves	a book of heroes
true	pretend