

SECTION

4.3

Studying God's Word



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Spot the Errors

What You'll Need: Whiteboard and dry erase markers

PREP: Before class, write one or more of the examples from step 1 on the board.

(Note: Make sure kids will be able to easily spot the errors of the problems, but make them challenging enough that it takes them a moment or two to find them.)

STEP 1: Ask kids if they can spot the errors on the board. Offer hints as needed. Ask those who spot the errors to correct them.

Examples of things you could write:

- A Bible verse with several misspelled words.
- A multiplication problem with an error.
- A triple digit addition problem with an error.

STEP 2: After errors have been located and corrected, ask the following questions.

- How long did it take you to find the mistakes?
- Why were you able to locate the mistakes?
- What helped you know that it was a mistake?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Studying is a step above reading, or simply knowing about something. Studying requires understanding a subject or repeating the same math concepts over and over until you can confidently explain the subject and complete the problems correctly.
- We have been given the very words of God, written just for us! It is important for us to study God's Word so that we can confidently understand His plan for us and then share it with others.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of studying and obeying God's Word.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Basic Concepts

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Ask, "What are the most important things you learned in kindergarten and first grade?" Take comments from kids for several minutes.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- What is the most important thing anyone said that they learned in kindergarten or first grade?
- Why is it so important?
- What are basic concepts about God's Word that you have learned so far this year in T&T?

STEP 3: Share the following key concepts:

- Some things that you learn in kindergarten and first grade are the foundation to the rest of your education.
- The Bible is God's form of communication with us. You have studied the basic concepts about God and the Bible this year in T&T. It is important for you to take the next step and study God's Word.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of studying and obeying God's Word.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Personal Communication

What You'll Need: Personal Communication Handout, six plastic cups that aren't transparent, scissors, clear tape, Bibles, (optional: table)

PREP: Print out the handout and cut along the lines. Use tape to affix the slips with the explanations to the outside of each upside-down cup. Have the slips with the verse references ready for later. Place the cups upside down on the table, if using one, or on the floor if not.

STEP 1: Explain that today's lesson is about studying God's Word, the Bible.

Share these key concepts:

- The Bible contains God's very words to mankind (2 Peter 1:21). It is the only instruction manual we need to live a life pleasing to God (2 Peter 1:3).
- God's Word is our personal communication from God and offers us four basic principles: teaching/doctrine (what we need to know to honor God with our lives), reproof/rebuking (what we do wrong against God), correction (what we need to do to correct our wrongdoing) and training in righteous/instruction in righteousness (how to honor and please God with our lives) (2 Timothy 3:16).

STEP 2: Get six volunteers, and give them each a slip of paper with a verse reference. As you give the kids the slips of paper, either read the verse for them, or let them look it up themselves. The challenge for the kids is to think about their assigned verses and determine how God's Word is described and/or what the benefit is for us to study God's Word. Then they need to find the right cup and build it into part of a cup pyramid. Check their answers against the list below.

List of verses and their explanations:

- Psalm 19:7 (God's Word is perfect and benefits us.)
- Psalm 19:8 (God's Word is right and makes our hearts happy.)
- Psalm 19:9 (God's Word is true and righteous.)
- Psalm 19:11 (God's Word warns us, and we are rewarded when we obey.)
- Psalm 119:105 (God's Word is a lamp and a light.)
- Psalm 119:165 (We will have peace if we love God's Word.)

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We study God's Word when we read and meditate (think about it over and over) on it. As we meditate on God's Word, our knowledge of it deepens, and we are able to confidently understand it and then share it with others (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 96:3).
- When we study God's Word, we are blessed, or happy (Psalm 1). We grow closer in our relationship with Him, and our faith in God will grow as we know Him more (1 John 5:20).
- Studying God's Word allows us to apply it to our lives. We will be able to confidently live out what we have read and heard (James 1:22). Our good works will be an example to others, and God is glorified when we become people who study God's Word (Matthew 5:16).

STEP 4: Encourage kids to begin to study God's Word regularly.



Personal Communication Handout

Psalm 19:7

Psalm 19:8

Psalm 19:9

Psalm 19:11

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:165

God's Word is perfect and benefits us.

God's Word is right and makes our hearts happy.

God's Word is true and righteous.

God's Word warns us, and we are rewarded when we obey.

God's Word is a lamp and a light.

We will have peace if we love God's Word.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Life's Instruction Manual

What You'll Need: Bibles, paper, pen

PREP: Write teaching/doctrine, reproof/rebuke, correction, or training in righteousness/instruction in righteousness on a piece of paper. Tape it to your space so the kids can see it.

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 together two times. Then share these key concepts:

- The Bible contains God's very words to mankind (2 Peter 1:21). It is the only instruction manual we need to live a life pleasing to God (2 Peter 1:3).
- God's Word is our personal communication from God, and offers us four basic principles: teaching/doctrine (what we need to know to honor God with our lives), reproof/rebuking (what we do wrong against God), correction (what we need to do to correct our wrongdoing) and training in righteousness/instruction in righteousness (how to honor and please God with our lives) (2 Timothy 3:16).

STEP 2: Ask for two volunteers to compete in your game. Point to the paper that gives the different categories from 2 Timothy 3:16-17. After each verse is read, have kids compete to determine if that verse offers teaching, reproof, correction, or righteous training.

Verses (The answers are in parentheses below.)

- Psalm 90:2 (training in righteousness/instruction in righteousness)
- Proverbs 3:1 (teaching/doctrine)
- Matthew 18:15 (reproof/rebuke)
- Philippians 4:2 (correction)

STEP 3: Congratulate the kids for playing, and then share the following concepts.

- When we study God's Word, we are blessed, or happy (Psalm 1). We grow closer in our relationship with Him, and our faith in God will grow as we know Him more (1 John 5:20).
- Studying God's Word allows us to apply it to our lives. When we study God's Word, we become more complete in Christ. In other words, we become the person God created us to be. We are able to confidently live out what we have read and heard (James 1:22). Our good works will be an example to others, and God is glorified when we become people who study God's Word (Matthew 5:16).

STEP 4: Encourage the kids to study God's Word using their T&T handbooks. Encourage them to read their weekly verses each day and write down what they learn from these verses each day. Close in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help the kids learn the importance of studying God's Word regularly.

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