



BIBLE SUNDAY 2024

Children's Resource

These are some ideas to help you prepare activities exploring the focus Bible verse, 2 Timothy 3.16, with children this Bible Sunday. Feel free to pick and mix different activities to suit the number and ages of the children in your group. We've also provided a lesson plan to help you explain, carry out and link the activities.

'All Scripture is inspired by God.'

2 Timothy 3.16 (GNB)

Preparation:

1. Create a way of displaying the theme verse clearly in the space where you are meeting so that everyone can see it.
2. Learn the Makaton sign language for Bible (1 minute into this video): [Useful Makaton signs for church - faith, hope, Bible, etc. – Becky George \(youtube.com\)](#)
3. Print out copies of the wordsearch provided which contains the words and phrases below. You could provide one for each child or an enlarged version to complete as a group.

Scripture

Good News

Word of God

Gospel

Holy Bible

4. Collect a variety of Bibles to show the children (e.g. a pew Bible, a children's Bible, a family Bible, the Bible on your phone, a Bible in another language, family Bible, an image of handwritten Bible like the Lindisfarne Gospels, or different versions of the Bible). You may be able to source some of these different Bibles from a library, a collection in your church, or from church members.
5. Write the following numbers on individual cards that are large enough so everyone can see them no matter the size of your group or venue.
2, 40, 66, 1,500, 39, 27, 700, 1,600, 7,000 (Protestant churches)
2, 40, 73, 1,500, 46, 27, 700, 1,600, 7,000 (Catholic churches)
6. How can children in your church learn more about the Bible? Choose from the list below and add any other ways you use. Write each one on a different piece of paper to stick up around the room where the children meet.

Devotional study (book or online)

Prayer

Family Bible study

Church service

Group Bible study

Holiday club

Sunday club (or other name you might use)

Chat with an adult Christian friend

Read the Bible on your own

Bible Sunday session:

1 Welcome, sign, and wordsearch

Hello everyone and welcome to this special Sunday together. Today we are celebrating Bible Sunday.

Here is the Makaton sign for 'Bible.' *(Teach the sign to the children.)*

Each time we use the word 'Bible,' we will do this sign. *(Practise a couple of times.)*

Today we are looking at this verse from the Bible. *(Don't forget to do the Makaton sign!)*

'All Scripture is inspired by God.'

2 Timothy 3.16 (GNB)

(Highlight the word 'Scripture' and explain that it means the words in the Bible.)

Here is a wordsearch that contains other terms for the word 'Scripture.' See how many you can find! *(Help the children with the wordsearch as needed until completed.)*

Which of these words are you most likely to use when talking about this *(hold up a Bible)* book?

2 Look at the book

Today, we are celebrating Bible Sunday, and we are going to get to know a bit more about the Bible. Let's take a look at all these different Bibles I've brought in today.

Share the different Bibles you've collected with the children. Be sure to use appropriate measures to keep the books safe depending on the rarity and age of the Bibles you are showing. Ask the children about what they are seeing as they explore.

Exploration suggestions:

- Compare a verse from a couple of versions of the Bible to see how the wording differs. Talk about whether the different versions help them to understand the meaning
- Which Bible do they think is the oldest?
- Which Bible do they think would be easiest to use?
- What age group do they think this Bible is best for?
- How long do they think it would take to write out the Bible by hand?
- Do they have a Bible at home? Does it look like any of these? *(Notice if anyone doesn't have a Bible at home. Could your church help with this?)*
- Do they have any questions? *(If you don't know the answer to their questions, that's OK. Tell them you will find out together. Modelling how to find answers to questions is very healthy and empowering for children.)*

3 What's my number?

Hand out the cards you prepared with the numbers on them to different children in your group. Tell them to come to the front or hold up the correct number when you use it in the following statements.

- The Bible is made up of 66 (73) different books all brought together to tell the story of God and his people
- Those 66 (73) books of the Bible are broken into two parts. The Old Testament (the story of God and his people before Jesus was born) and the New Testament
- The Bible has about 40 different writers/authors
- The Bible was written over the course of more than 1,500 years
- There are 39 (46) books in the Old Testament (from the time before Jesus was born)
- There are 27 books in the New Testament
- The full Bible has been translated into more than 700 languages
- The New Testament has been translated into more than 1,600 languages
- There are about 7,000 languages that are spoken around the world

4 Game with numbers

Place the number cards face down. Have the children turn over a card and see if they can tell you the Bible fact that goes with that number. Do this a few times until your group seems fairly fluent with the information.

5 God inspired

In this verse we learn that the Bible, Scripture, God's word is inspired by God ... or some translations say, 'God-breathed'. What do you think that means?

Take answers from the children.

This means that God inspired people to write down the words we read in the Bible today:

- Sometimes he spoke to them directly and told them what to write, like Moses writing down the Ten Commandments
- Sometimes he inspired people to record what was happening in their lives and the lives of their people
- Some writers were inspired to compose songs praising God or calling out to him in times of trouble
- Others wanted to pass on the wisdom they learned from following God
- Some writers received dreams and visions from God which they wrote down
- The Gospel writers were inspired to write down what they had heard Jesus say and the things they'd seen him do
- Some writers were inspired to write letters to other believers, encouraging them with truths about God and helpful advice

So, being inspired by God can happen in lots of different ways and involve all kinds of different people.

Say the verse together a couple of times.

6 How to look at the book

(Holding a Bible)

Since this book is God-breathed (inspired by God), Christians believe that the Bible is very important. It's an exciting and precious book because it shows that God wants us to know all about him and his love for us. The Bible is God's gift to everyone. As we read it, we learn about God through stories, history, poetry and letters. We learn more about ourselves and the world God created too.

So, the question is: how do we learn to read and understand the Bible?

Take ideas from the children.

Point to the signs you have put up around the room and tell the children that these are all ways to learn about the Bible.

How would each of these help you to learn more about what is in the Bible? *(Talk about each one.)*

Prepare to have the children moving around the room. Give the following directions and discuss the why behind their choices with them.

- Stand beside one of these ways to learn about the Bible that you have done before
- Go and stand by the one that you think would be the best way to learn what's in the Bible
- Move to the one you think would be the most difficult way to learn what's in the Bible
- Stand by the one that you think would be the most fun way to learn about the Bible
- Move to the one you think you could put into action this week, even if you've never done it before



CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for giving us the Bible. Thank you that we have the Bible in a language we can understand. Help us to learn more about what is in the Bible and how it can help us be closer to you. Amen.

Bible Sunday Wordsearch:

Q	S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E	M	X	W	Z	D
X	M	N	A	A	B	W	K	J	I	J	M	O	I	Z
A	C	U	R	L	O	P	Y	G	N	M	V	R	B	C
V	O	H	E	V	X	K	S	O	U	P	J	D	B	N
O	A	J	O	G	S	T	G	S	S	C	Q	O	X	Z
K	B	M	X	L	O	J	I	P	P	S	J	F	T	B
L	A	A	M	H	Y	O	G	E	S	V	K	G	N	M
U	G	O	K	V	N	B	D	L	C	O	S	O	Y	L
I	Y	H	A	P	I	N	I	N	K	M	D	D	A	H
I	J	T	N	W	L	C	Q	B	E	S	O	K	D	U
V	Z	B	B	X	B	Z	A	Y	L	W	O	K	K	Z
T	K	R	D	M	A	O	H	Y	V	E	S	F	L	V
I	I	G	E	V	D	A	T	G	S	M	Z	Z	T	D
O	U	V	T	I	S	N	K	K	W	X	C	W	Q	I
I	M	A	Y	I	I	O	L	D	G	J	V	A	S	G

Holy Bible

Scripture

Good News

Gospel

Word of God