

Elementary Class Day #1

How We Got The Bible

HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

Monday

History of the Bible: The book "How we got the Bible" by Neil R. Lightfoot is an excellent resource on Bible history.

Some of the early writings were found on stone, clay tablets, leather, papyrus, parchment and vellum. Books of the Old Testament were preserved by Jewish scribes. The men copied the words onto animal skins called parchment. The scribes had to count each letter to make sure they were all there. Try to find pictures or visuals to show your class.

The word Bible is based on the Greek word "biblia" meaning little books.

The Bible started out as rolls of papyrus, not bound books like we have today. Scrolls were also used, as well as clay tablets. It wasn't until the printing press came into use in Europe that the Bible was produced at a price people could afford. The first mass-produced Bible was printed by Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz, Germany in 1456.

40 different men wrote the 66 books of the Bible. Moses wrote the first book about 3500 years ago. John wrote the last book about 1900 years ago.

The first 39 books are from an older collection known as the Hebrew Scriptures. The books were originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic. Christians call this collection the Old Testament. The Old Testament covers the age of the Patriarchs, or Forefathers and the age of Israel. The first five books of the Bible (Genesis through Deuteronomy) were known by the Jews as the Torah. Christians call these five books the Pentateuch.

The second part of the Bible is called the New Testament. The New Testament was written in Greek. It is made up of 27 books and forms the sacred scripture of Christianity. The New Testament is about the age of Christ. The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels.

The Bible is God's gift to us of his word. It is true, not a fairy tale or made up story.

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time.

3 BASIC STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN STUDYING YOUR BIBLE

Observation – What is this passage about?

Interpretation – What does it mean?

Application – How can I apply it to my life?

AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

*It took 25 sheep to make parchment for 200 pages of Bible text.

*In the Middle Ages, a copy of the Bible cost more to produce than two arches of the London Bridge.

*Handwritten copies of the Bible were so valuable that they were chained to their place in the church.

*Around 700 years ago wood block stories were invented. The blocks were like our comic books. Each block had a picture of a New Testament story and also a scene from an Old Testament story that taught the same lesson. People did not have to know how to read to understand them. They were called Poor Man's Bibles because they did not cost very much.

Activities

Pathway to the Bible obstacle course, using the Bible Pathway chart. Set up a simple obstacle course using chairs, cones, books or baskets covering about a 15 foot area. Place a Bible by the wall at the end of the obstacle course. Also have a copy of the Bible Pathway chart. *Chart can be found at end of activities. Gather students at the opposite end of the course from the Bible.

The students should have their Bibles with them. Give each student a 16 foot length of yarn and have them unroll the yarn as they choose a path through the obstacle course. When every student has arrived at the end of the course at the Bible, point out the different pathways they chose to take and say:

Choosing different paths can make traveling to a town or country or even through life confusing. We need to know which path is the best and straightest. God has given us a perfect pathway to find our way through life as we move toward him.

This pathway is called the Bible and it was given to us by God. Let's see what path led to the Bible and what path it takes to us. Point to each of the following and explain each one.

God cloud – All things and all truth began with God.

People's faces – God taught us his truths and inspired people to write His truths down.

Scrolls – Long ago God's truths were recorded on scrolls. Today we know God's Word as the Bible.

Bible – Ask the students to open their Bibles and tell you what they notice about the contents.

Old and New Testament – Point out that even though Bibles may look different they all contain two main sections, the Old and New Testament.

Old Testament – God promises a Savior for his people.

New Testament – Tells us about Jesus and how God kept his promise through Jesus, our Savior.

Have kids locate the first page of Genesis and the first page of Matthew in their Bibles. Show them how to find the chapter (John 3), and verse from the chart (John 3:16).

God's truth cloud and children at bottom of chart – Tell students that both testaments contain books, chapters and verses that bring God's truth to us.

Handout a copy of the Bible Pathway chart to each student.

Have students roll up their ball of yarn as they head back to classroom.

Questions

Who gave us the Bible? God gave us the Bible.

Who wrote down the words of the Bible? People wrote down the words and truths God inspired them to write.

What two parts are the Bible divide into? Old and New Testaments.

Why is the Bible completely true and trustworthy? Because the Bible is from God.

Which part of the Bible tells us about Jesus' life? The New Testament or the Gospels teach about Jesus.

How does the Bible help us? It teaches us God's truth.

What are the first 4 books of the New Testament called? The Gospels.

What is the best-selling book of all time? The Bible.

What are 3 things the Bible teaches us? God is truthful, Jesus loves us, God is all-powerful.

Bible search

Divide class into two teams. Call out a scripture and whoever finds it correctly first, receives a point for their team.

What would Jesus read? bookmarks

These can be found at Hobby Lobby. The bookmark is velvety with the words in white so they can be colored with markers. They come with a ribbon to add to the top.

Resources used for this lesson:

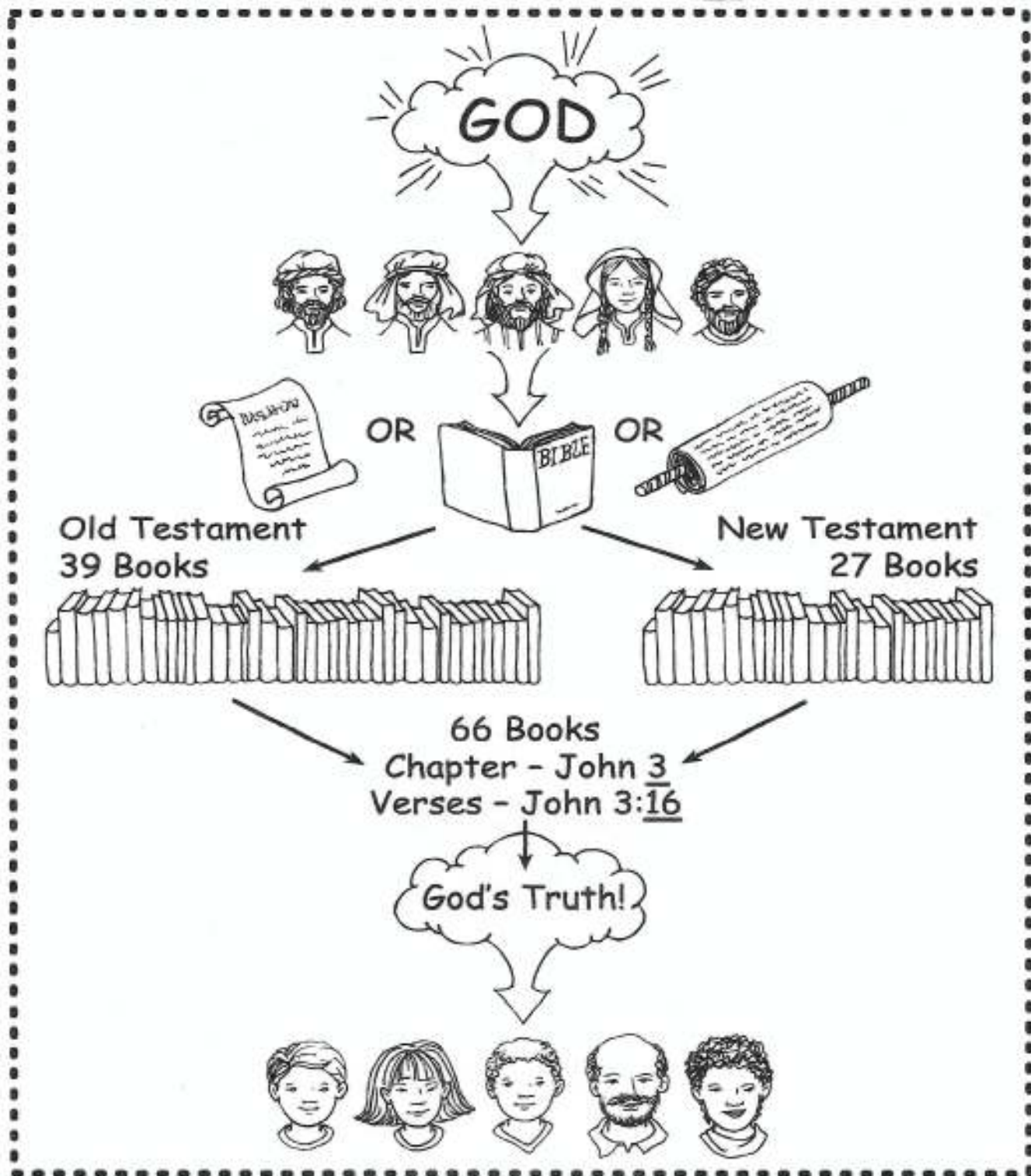
"How We Got the Bible" 3rd edition by Neil R. Lightfoot.

"The Awesome Book of Bible facts" by Sandy Silverthorne.

"1,000 Facts About the Bible" by National Geographic Kids.

"The Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible" by Lion Publishing Co.

BIBLE PATHWAY



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