

# NEHEMIAH KIDS<sup>®</sup>

Nehemiah 1:11



**third grade leader guide**  
Fall Session • Basic Bible Truths

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NEHEMIAH KIDS: Third Grade Leader Guide  
Fall Session: Basic Bible Truths

Revised 2013

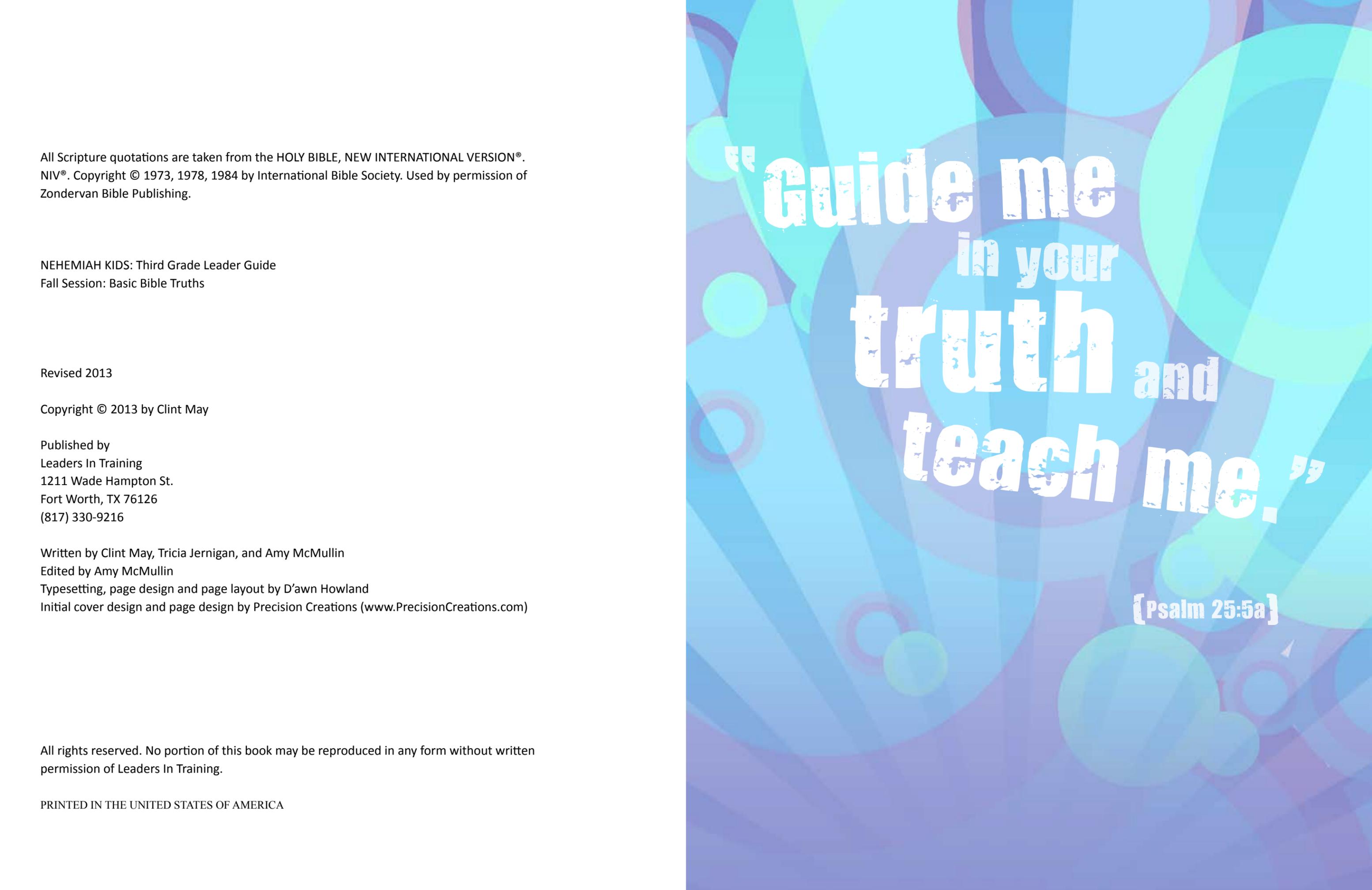
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**“Guide me  
in your  
truth and  
teach me.”**

**[Psalm 25:5a]**

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# Welcome to Nehemiah Kids!

Disciple Group Bible Study for Nehemiah Kids (N.K.) is a great opportunity to get to know the children in your group and build accountability. The materials in this book are designed to help you succeed as you plan for Bible study with your small group each week. These materials are very simple and should give you plenty to discuss and do during your Disciple Group time. The number one rule of teaching and being a discipler is to *surrender*. Surrender to God for His filling. He will empower you to model and exemplify Christ. He will also guide you as you lead your group in prayer and worship.

## Introduction: Basic Bible Truths

Get ready for the next eighteen weeks as you systematically study who God is and His desire to have a personal relationship with you. This relationship is illustrated through The Cross. At the end of this session, your group will have developed a personal quiet time of prayer and Bible study. The children will understand Lordship and begin to let Jesus be Lord of their lives each day. They will be trained and able to share their faith with confidence and have an understanding of their spiritual gifts. Your job will be to hold them accountable each week to ensure they are faithfully doing a daily quiet time and memorizing Scripture. Romans 12:1-2 says, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” You will begin to see dramatic changes as the children in your group begin to apply what they have learned. As they surrender their lives to Christ each day, they will be pleasing and acceptable before God. They will be transformed by the renewing of their minds daily through Bible study and Scripture memory. They will not realize it, but the Word of God will begin an inward change in their lives that others will notice.

## Developing a Christian Worldview

There are many beliefs in our world. These beliefs can be considered a person’s worldview. A worldview is how a person determines what they believe about who they are as a person, their purpose for being here on Earth, what they believe to be truth, what they believe about family, and how they view the needs of the world around them.

For the Christian, our view of all these things is guided by what the Bible says. As Christians we look at things differently because we have a tool that guides us—God’s Word. On sunny days, some people wear sunglasses to filter out the sun’s rays. They find it easier to see with sunglasses on bright days. As we live in the world, we need to have a filter to help us determine what is right and wrong. It is like putting on sunglasses to block out the sun. So the believer takes up the Bible to block out those views that do not line up with God’s Word. Parents need to have a Christian worldview and instill in their child a biblical perspective of the world.

“Parent Talk: Christian Worldview” is the Day 6 devotional for each week in the student devotional book. It is based on the admonition in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” This section is designed to assist parents in helping their children apply what they are learning.

# The Cross

The Cross will be your tool to help your Disciple Group stay on track in their walk with God. It is a formula for spiritual growth as you and your students learn to put it into practice. God has a plan for every person's life. He desires a relationship with us. He has made this relationship possible through Jesus Christ. Some of your students will have already made the discovery while others may not have. Your responsibility as their Disciple Group leader is to continue pointing students to Christ—first for salvation, and second for them to experience the abundant life that Jesus promises (John 10:10).

Salvation is key, and from that point the journey begins. Then we have to constantly remember we must live a life that is totally and completely dependent upon and surrendered to Him. From there, we find direction for our lives through His Word. God's Word always points to God and His purpose for our lives. His Word is the road map for our lives. His Word is the instruction manual by which we put our lives together. It is our light through a dark world bent on destroying our lives, and it is our handbook for discipling children. We teach them to look at life through biblical eyes. They must learn to face life with the instruction manual in front of them. As we submit our lives to Him, we can find His will for our lives through His Word.

We have the wonderful invitation in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." First John 5:14–15 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." Therefore, we can come boldly before the Lord in submission to Him, and He will answer our requests. This is how we have a personal relationship with Him.

The vertical part of The Cross represents our relationship with God. Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:37–38). The second part of our relationship with God becomes horizontal. "And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:39–40). Looking at The Cross, we are called to "Tell Others" the wonderful Gospel message, and God has given us gifts for ministry. When we are doing all the parts of The Cross, we are living out a life of obedience to Christ.

# The Life of Obedience

## Parts of The Cross

- **The Center of The Cross—Jesus Is Lord:** Jesus Christ must be Lord of every area of the N.K.s' lives. They will learn to allow Him to live His life through them. (Galatians 2:20)
- **The Base of The Cross—Read the Bible:** In order to find God's will, they must read His Word daily. (Psalm 119:105)
- **The Top of The Cross—Talk With God:** Prayer is the open invitation to spend time talking with God each day. The children can talk with Him anytime and anywhere. (Jeremiah 33:3)
- **The Left Side of The Cross—Tell Others:** Jesus commands His followers to tell the world about His great love for them. The N.K.s will be challenged to share their faith daily. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- **The Right Side of The Cross—Gifts and Ministry:** The Holy Spirit has given gifts to every child of God, and the children are to use these gifts to serve God in the church and in the world. (Ephesians 2:10)
- **The Circle around The Cross—Life of Obedience:** The Lord Jesus calls believers to obey His leadership. In following the parts of The Cross, the N.K.s can accomplish His desires for their lives.



# Disciple Group Information

Each Disciple Group will consist of four or five children. Before going to your Disciple Group, go through the materials and become familiar with your studies. The Disciple Group Bible study will complement what your group studied the previous week. This Leader Guide is designed to provide you with Bible study aids and activities to help the students learn the biblical concepts you are teaching. You will most likely not have enough time to do everything presented here, so plan on using the materials that you believe will be most effective with your students. The following is a basic outline of each week's lesson:

**Lesson Topic:** In Third Grade: Fall Session, the children will learn about different aspects of the Bible each week. A definition of each week's lesson topic will appear at the beginning of the study.

**Learning Objective:** The Learning Objective is the desired outcome of each week's Disciple Group time. This identifies the goal your group should try to achieve each week.

**Memory Verse:** The N.K.s are given a memory verse to learn each week with their devotionals. One of the most important parts of Disciple Group time is reciting the memory verse. Take time each week during the Bible Study Review to make sure they have memorized their verse. You should also review the past weeks' verses so the children can always keep them in their hearts and minds.

**Spiritual Preparation:** These prayer suggestions are provided for you to pray about as you prepare for your Disciple Group time. They will guide you in the direction of personal preparation and how to pray specifically for the children in your group.



**Opening Prayer:** Begin your Disciple Group time with prayer. Pray on the armor of God first because you have an enemy that wants to frustrate and hinder your Bible study time together. God has provided the armor for your protection.

**The Armor of God** can be found in Ephesians 6:10-17. In order to teach your group the importance of the armor, each week have them all stand up before prayer time and visually put it on. For example: Belt of truth—Using their hands, have them pretend to put a belt around their waists. Breastplate of righteousness—They can act like they are sliding it over their heads and strapping it on. Sandals of peace—Have them sit down and “put on” their sandals. Complete the armor with the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

Starting with prayer will help you and your students get focused and prepared for Disciple Group time.



**Biblical Explanation:** The Biblical Explanation gives you a brief interpretation of Scripture and further insights for the Disciple Group time.



**Bible Story:** The Bible Story gives the children a biblical illustration of the concepts they are learning in each week's Bible study.



**Bible Study Review:** This section provides the students with the opportunity to quote their memory verse for the week, recite previous weeks' verses, and review the past week's devotionals that they did at home. The review questions are designed to evaluate learner comprehension. After asking these questions, you may find that your group lacks understanding in a particular area. If so, discuss the materials they did not understand.



**The Cross:** The Cross reminds the children each week of how we relate to God and to others in living a life of obedience to the Lord. This section will explain how each week's lesson applies to The Cross.



**Object Lesson:** Some children are visual learners. The Object Lessons are provided to further enhance learning and help give children a better grasp of biblical principles.



**Learning Activity:** These activities give the children a hands-on activity that will reinforce the message of each week's lesson. It will give them a practical way to apply the lesson to their lives and encourage them to “live it out” when they leave Disciple Group time. If the children do not understand how to apply the lesson to their daily lives, they will not have learned effectively.

**P.R.A.Y.:** The P.R.A.Y. acrostic is a reminder of how to pray daily and in small group time. You want to help children develop a daily prayer time beginning with praise and thanksgiving (P), followed by confession and repentance of sin (R). Teach your N.K.s to ask, or make their requests known to God (A). The most important part of the Christian life is SURRENDER, or yield (Y). This is key to their personal growth and gives them a daily reminder of who is in control. The prayer guides relate to each week's lesson and are provided as prayer starters. You, the leader, might say the prayer guide, then each N.K. can say a related prayer. You might want to sit in a circle and pray around the circle. Lead the group in praise and thanksgiving, then move into confession of sin. Next, have them tell God their needs. End prayer time with them yielding and surrendering their lives to God. It is important for you to allow the Holy Spirit to guide each child as they pray.

Make a copy of the P.R.A.Y. acrostic cards on **page 10**, cut them apart, and give each card to a child. When it is time to do each type of prayer, have the child with that card hold it so that everyone can see. This will help remind each child how you are praying at the time.



**Leader Notes & N.K. Prayer Requests:** This section is provided as a place for you to write down any thoughts or ideas you may have as you study and prepare for Disciple Group time each week. You can also write down any prayer requests your N.K.s share with you when you make your weekly phone calls.

# P.R.A.Y. Acrostic Cards

Copy these cards onto cardstock and cut out to use during your Disciple Group prayer time.

<p><b>Praise and Thanksgiving</b></p>	<p><b>Repent and Confess</b></p>
<p><b>Ask</b></p>	<p><b>Yield and Surrender</b></p>

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# Weekly Memory Verses

The following are the weekly memory verses that the N.K.s will be learning. It is important that you also learn the memory verses. As leaders, we want to be examples for our students, and we should be faithful in Scripture memory ourselves.

**Week One**—“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

**Week Two**—“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11)

**Week Three**—“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

**Week Four**—“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

**Week Five**—“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)

**Week Six**—“Live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.” (Colossians 1:10)

**Week Seven**—“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

**Week Eight**—“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

**Week Nine**—“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.” (Psalm 145:3)

**Week Ten**—“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.” (Acts 1:8a)

**Week Eleven**—“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3)

**Week Twelve**—“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

**Week Thirteen**—“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

**Week Fourteen**—“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34)

**Week Fifteen**—“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

**Week Sixteen**—“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13)

**Week Seventeen**—“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

**Week Eighteen**—“God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’” (Hebrews 13:5b)



# WEEK 1

## God's Word (Part 1)

### Lesson Topic—God's Word

The Bible, God's instructions and message of love and life for you

### Learning Objective

The N.K.s will understand that God's Word can be trusted because God inspired men to write it.

### Memory Verse

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

### Spiritual Preparation

Call the N.K.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.

Pray for the Lord to give each student a passion for reading God's Word as they develop the discipline of a daily quiet time.

Pray that the parents of your N.K.s will partner with you and their child in having a daily quiet time and daily Bible reading.

Ask the Lord to give you wisdom for teaching the children how to establish a daily quiet time and how best to read God's Word.

### Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your N.K.s stand up and put on the armor of God, piece-by-piece. (They can turn to **page 8** in their devotional books to see the pieces of the armor. Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises, then have each child pray for the person on their right.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the N.K.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.

### Biblical Explanation

Can the Bible be trusted? Is there any absolute truth? Yes, the Bible—God's Word. We have a problem in our culture today according to current research done with Christian youth: "48 percent of teenagers today believe that it does not matter what religious faith you associate with because they all believe the same principles and truth; 70 percent of America's youth today do not believe that there is any absolute moral truth or guidelines for life."<sup>1</sup> God's Word says otherwise: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. Men of old under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote a love letter to mankind...from God. God inspired and led these men to write down what He told them so that others might hear His truths and find salvation through His Son. His Word gives us instruction for life. "The instruction of Christian leaders, the authority of the Scriptures, and the authority of Jesus Christ combine to make a person wise and prepared for salvation by belief in Jesus. Scripture is God-breathed and thus authoritative in all areas of ministry...The Bible is the textbook of the Christian faith."<sup>2</sup> Through God's Word, we are able to find Him. As we look at Scripture, we learn what life is about and how to find our purpose. From it we learn how to fulfill that purpose.

Looking at The Cross, we see the words "Read the Bible" at the base. We must be in God's Word daily to understand His will and direction for our lives. Remind your students today that the Bible always points us to God and His purpose for our lives. The psalmist wrote, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105).

1 - Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler, *Beyond Belief to Conviction* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 2002), 9.  
2 - *The Disciple's Study Bible* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1988), 1559.

### Bible Story

Tell the story from 2 Timothy 3:1-17 of Paul's encouragement to Timothy as he would be facing difficult times in his ministry. Explain that Paul warned Timothy of the kinds of sin the people would be caught up in, and he encouraged Timothy to cling to the promises of God's Word. Highlight the following points:

- Some of the things Timothy would encounter included: people who are focused on themselves, gossipers, people who are proud and boastful, haters of good, lovers of pleasure, people with no self-control, and disobedient children.
- Paul told Timothy to have nothing to do with those people.
- Even though some of those people would always continue to learn, they would never come to the knowledge of truth.
- Paul described them as being like men who opposed Moses—they would oppose the truth. They would be wicked in the minds and be rejected from the faith.
- However, God would make sure that their ignorance of His Word and their foolish ways were evident to all. Paul encouraged Timothy that those men would not succeed in their evil pursuits.
- Paul also reminded Timothy of the persecution he himself had faced in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, and Paul recalled how the Lord had rescued him from the persecution.
- Paul warned Timothy that all who want to live a godly life would be persecuted.
- With those things in mind, Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in what he had learned from Scripture. In other words, Timothy had learned about God and His ways from reading the Bible and about how he was supposed to live in order to please God. Paul wanted Timothy to continue obeying God's Word.
- Furthermore, Paul reminded Timothy that the sacred writings (the Bible) give wisdom that leads to salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Paul then stated an absolute truth: Scripture comes from God and serves many purposes—teaching, correcting, rebuking, and training in righteousness.
- This letter to Timothy is relevant to us today. God's Word prepares us for every good work.

### Bible Study Review

1. Review and discuss the Lesson Topic definition of *God's Word* (above).
2. Have the N.K.s in your group recite this past week's memory verse and explain what this verse means to them.
3. Ask the following review questions:
  - Where did the Bible come from?
  - Why is the Bible so important for your life?
  - What must you do when you read verses from Scripture?
  - What words of encouragement did Paul give Timothy?



### The Cross

Explain the importance of The Cross:

- The center of The Cross is "Jesus Is Lord." When you accept Jesus into your life, you are making a commitment to live in obedience to His Word. Therefore, you must study His Word and apply it to your life.
- The base of The Cross is "Read the Bible." Jesus wants you to read your Bible daily so that you will know what is true. It is God's guidebook for your life.
- The top of The Cross is "Talk With God." Jesus wants you to talk with Him, asking Him to help you do whatever He desires. God will also speak to you in your prayers times. As you pray, He may bring a verse to mind for you to understand or for you to obey.
- The left side of The Cross is "Tell Others." You must be willing to tell others the truths of God's Word. Scripture promises, "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).
- The right side of The Cross is "Gifts and Ministry." God may be calling you to lead a Bible study for your friends at school or to help teach a Sunday school class. He will prepare you for the task.
- The circle around The Cross represents a "Life of Obedience." When you are doing all the things on The Cross, you will have peace in knowing that you are living in obedience to God by doing what Scripture commands.

