

Unit 7: Back to the Land

Unit Description: When the next generation of God's people, led by Joshua, returned back to the land of Canaan, God reminded them of His promises and that all of His words are true. Joshua and the Israelites would need to remember God's Word, trust it, and live in obedience to it if they were to conquer the land.

Big Picture Question: What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.



SESSION 1: God Encouraged Joshua Joshua 1



SESSION 2: God Stopped the Jordan River Joshua 3–4



SESSION 3: The Bible Helps Us Live for God 2 Timothy 3



UNIT 7 | SESSION 3

THE BIBLE HELPS US LIVE FOR GOD

2 TIMOTHY 3

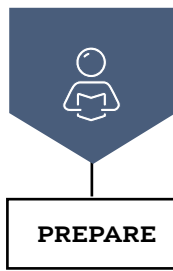
KEY PASSAGE: Your word is a lamp for my feet
and a light on my path. Psalm 119:105 CSB

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Paul wrote to teach Timothy how to live for God. The Bible tells us about God's plan for people to have forgiveness through His Son, Jesus. Jesus obeyed God's Word perfectly. We can follow Jesus' example to read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live for God's glory.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul points out that Scripture is enough for us. It is our source for godliness and our final authority in matters pertaining to doctrine. The confessions of every Protestant denomination affirm the sufficiency of Scripture.

Why does this matter for kids? We need to teach our kids that even though the Bible may not mention everything in life, it mentions everything we need to know about God, His plan to save us, and how we can live a holy life to please Him.

It is important in a world that has become increasingly hostile to biblical truth that we teach our kids the value of reading it and applying it to our lives daily.

What is important for us to remember and for kids to know about the Bible?

1. The Bible is how God speaks to us. The words of the Bible are not like any other document on earth. They are the way God chose to tell us what He is like.
2. The Bible is about God and for us. One common misunderstanding about the Bible is that the Bible is about us. As we are reminded each week in our Christ connection, the Bible is about Jesus, but it is for us. It is how we can understand, apply, and teach others what God is like.

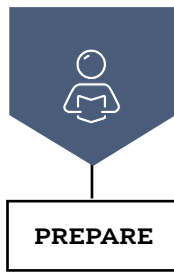
3. The Bible is how we can know how to love God and live for God. God speaks to us through His Word, shows us what He is like, and tells us how life works best and how we can live for Him in the world He has made for us.

Take a moment to thank God for the Bible as you prepare to show your kids the beauty of Christ in the pages of Scripture.

Paul told Timothy that all of the Bible is important for us to grow and to know. This is just as true for kids. The question is not what parts of the Bible we should teach kids but how we should teach all of the Bible to kids.

TERMS TO KNOW

Sufficiency of Scripture: The Bible is all we need to equip us for a life of faith and service.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Along Those Lines" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ index cards (optional)

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ table tennis balls
- ☐ permanent marker
- ☐ boxes or bins, 2
- ☐ spoons, 1 per kid
- ☐ stopwatch or timer (optional)



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "The Bible Helps Us Live for God" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 7, Session 3" questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Yvette Arons Poster" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "A Light on My Path (Psalm 119:105)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ noise-canceling headphones or other over-ear hearing protection

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ dry erase board or large sheet of paper
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ "How Should We Live?" activity page



LIVE



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “When was the last time you received a letter in the mail—a real letter with an envelope and stamp? How did you feel? Have you ever written a letter to a friend who needed some encouragement?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Along Those Lines” on the activity page.

SAY “Have you heard those words before—teaching, rebuking, correcting, training? The Bible is useful for all those things. We’ll find out more about that today.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: TOOL CHARADES



Invite kids to play a game of charades. Choose a volunteer to stand at the front of the room and act out a task that requires a tool. Kids may perform their own ideas, or prepare suggestions on index cards:

- Dig a hole. (shovel)
- Pick up leaves. (rake)
- Clean carpet. (vacuum)
- Cut wood. (saw)
- Tighten a screw. (screwdriver)

The group should guess both the task and the tool used to complete it. Allow other volunteers to act out tasks and tools as time allows.

SAY “Completing a task often requires the right tool. You could dig a hole with your hands, but it’s much more efficient to use a shovel. God created us and wants us to live for Him. Have you ever thought about what you need to do that? Today, we’ll discover how the Bible helps us live for God.”

☐ OPTION 2: BIBLE BOOK BALL SORT

Before the session, use a permanent marker to write the names of Bible books on several table tennis balls. Prepare at least 12, and include both Old and New Testament books. (Suggestions: Exodus, Joshua, Psalms, Isaiah, Daniel, Micah, Luke, Acts, Romans, Ephesians, 2 Timothy, Revelation)

Scatter the balls on the floor. Set up two bins. Designate one Old Testament and the other New Testament. Give each kid a spoon. Explain that when you say go, kids should scoop up the balls and sort them between the bins. Provide Bibles for kids to refer to the table of contents if they need help.

When kids finish, review the Bible books and make any necessary sorting corrections.

SAY “Great work! The Bible is made up of 66 books, and they all fit together to tell us what is true about God and ourselves. Today, we’ll hear more about why it’s important to read, believe, and obey God’s Word.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hello, everyone! I’m [your name]. I get to be here with you today to tell you about God’s message to you. Even though we can’t see God, we can know Him. He tells us everything we need to know through a book. What book is that? [Hold up the Bible.] The Bible! Do you have your Bible with you today? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “Our big picture question is about the Bible. Here it is: **What is the Bible?** There are several ways you could answer that question, but we’ve been learning a specific big picture answer: **The Bible is God’s Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.**

Keep that in mind as you hear today’s Bible story. This is an important truth to remember your whole life. Let’s say the big picture question and answer together: **What is the Bible? The Bible is God’s Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.**”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “The last two weeks, we’ve heard stories from the Book of Joshua. In the first chapter of Joshua, we heard about Joshua himself—the new leader whom God chose to take Moses’ place over the Israelites. We also talked about the obstacle Joshua and the Israelites faced as they entered the promised land: a wide, overflowing river.

God chose the Israelites to be His special people. He loved them and wanted them to know Him, love Him, and live for Him. That’s what God wants for us, too. Jesus came to earth, lived, died, and rose again to rescue sinners. God’s chosen people are anyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

God wants us to know Him, love Him, and live for Him. How can we know how to live for God? Do you have any ideas? [Pause for kids to respond.] Today’s Bible story will show us how the Bible helps us live for God.”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 2 Timothy 3. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Bible Helps Us Live for God.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

THE BIBLE HELPS US LIVE FOR GOD

“A man named **Paul wrote a letter to his friend Timothy. Paul was a follower of Jesus. He was also a missionary**; he went wherever God sent him and told people the good news about Jesus. **Timothy had traveled with Paul and helped him. Now Timothy was a leader at a church.**

Two letters from Paul to Timothy are part of the Bible. In the second letter, Paul taught Timothy about living for Jesus and how to help others live for Jesus too.

This is what **Paul wrote: “Hard times are coming. Some people will not live for God. They will love themselves and money most of all.** They will be proud, unloving, and unholy. They will disobey their parents and live without self-control. **Instead of loving God, they will do whatever feels good to them.** Stay away from these people. They will never come to know the truth about God.”

Paul reminded Timothy of two men, Jannes (JAN eez) and Jambres (JAM breez), who had challenged Moses in Egypt. They were foolish not to believe the truth.

Paul wrote, **“You know me well, and you even suffered like I did. Everyone who wants to live for Jesus will face hard times, too.** Remember what you have learned and believed. **From the time you were a child, you learned from Scripture. The Scriptures** are able to **give you the wisdom you need to be saved** through faith in Jesus.”

Paul knew that the Bible helps people live for God. He said, “All Scripture is inspired by God. It is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness. With the Bible, everyone who follows God can be ready and have everything they need to do every good work.”

Christ Connection: Paul wrote to teach Timothy how to live for God. The Bible tells us about God’s plan for people to have forgiveness through His Son, Jesus. Jesus obeyed God’s Word perfectly. We can follow Jesus’ example to read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live for God’s glory. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Role play Paul: Tell the story while seated at a desk with a pen and paper. As you describe Paul’s words to Timothy, act out writing a letter.

Invite active listening: Instruct kids to listen carefully and give a thumbs-up when they like what they’re hearing and a thumbs-down when the story is hard.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Do you think Paul’s letter was important to Timothy? Yes! Paul had so much he wanted to tell Timothy about. It seems like he wanted to both warn Timothy about what was coming and encourage him to hang in there as things were about to get tough.

Open your Bible to 2 Timothy 3. What was the warning that Paul wrote to Timothy about? Look at 2 Timothy 3:1-5. **[Choose a volunteer to read the passage aloud.]** That’s right! He wanted Timothy to be ready because terrible times were coming in the last days. Would it help you to know ahead of time that things are going to get hard? Why? **[Pause for kids to respond.]**

What was Paul’s encouragement for Timothy? Look at 2 Timothy 3:14-17. **[Choose a volunteer to read the passage aloud.]** Paul encouraged Timothy to continue to live according to the Word of God that he learned when he was young. He wanted Timothy to know that the Word of God is able to bring salvation to those who are lost and that God uses His Word to prepare and equip His people, even today, to do every good work.

We can trust and obey God’s Word because we can trust God! **What is the Bible? The Bible is God’s Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.** ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Paul wrote to teach Timothy how to live for God. The Bible tells us about God’s plan for people to have forgiveness through His Son, Jesus. Jesus obeyed God’s Word perfectly. We can follow Jesus’ example to read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live for God’s glory. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 7, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Do we have to follow all the rules in the Old Testament?
2. Why do you think God wants His followers to live a certain way?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Did you know that there are around 430 million people in the world with serious hearing loss? Can you imagine what it would be like not to be able to hear?

God communicates with us through the Bible—His Word. Many people who are deaf use sign language to communicate. Have you ever thought about the fact that people who are deaf need someone to tell them about Jesus, too? Using sign language is a helpful skill for sharing the gospel with people who cannot hear. Women like Yvette Arons have answered God’s call to go to the mission field, even when some people thought it would be too dangerous. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Show the kids the poster and teach them about Yvette Aarons. Pray and thank God for calling missionaries to reach people who cannot hear.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 119:105 together.

SAY “Psalm 119:105 says that God’s Word is both like a lamp and a light. Let’s see if we can all memorize this verse right now.”

1. Choose a volunteer to turn his back to the group.
2. Point to a word on the key passage poster so everyone but the volunteer can see the selected word. Then remove or cover the poster.
3. Instruct the group to say the key passage, omitting the selected word. Kids should clap when they get to the word instead.
4. Challenge the volunteer to identify the missing word.

Repeat with another volunteer if time allows. Lead kids in singing “A Light on My Path (Psalm 119:105).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

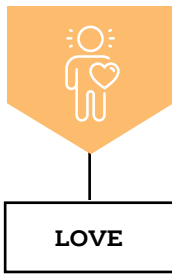
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Lord, thank You for Your Word. Help us to love, read, and obey the Bible. Thank You that every word in the Bible is true and we can trust it to guide us in Your ways until we see You face-to-face. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 2 Timothy 2. Remind kids that Paul, a Christian missionary, wrote this letter to his friend Timothy. Explain that when Paul wrote his letter, he was a prisoner in Rome (B1). Consider comparing the map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Timothy 2:8-9.

| SAY “Paul was in prison for preaching the gospel, but he said that no one can stop God’s Word. The Bible tells us the good news about Jesus, and the Bible helps us live for God.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| SAY “What did Paul say Scripture is useful for?”

Remind kids of Paul’s words in 2 Timothy 3:16—Scripture is beneficial for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Discuss each of these uses. The Bible teaches us what is true about God and ourselves. It shows us where we are wrong and guides us to what is right. It changes us to be more like Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 15:4.)

| SAY “How is God’s Word like a light or a lamp?”

Discuss what it is like to be in a dark room. Light reveals what is hidden and shows us what is actually there. It uncovers what is hidden. In a similar way, the Bible tells us what is true. It reveals truths that we may not see on our own. Scripture gives us hope and good news.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 119:33-34.)

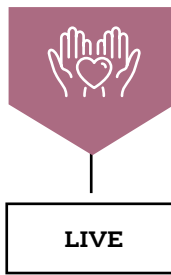
| SAY “How can God’s Word help us follow Jesus even when life is hard?”

Point out that when Paul wrote to Timothy, Paul was in prison. Jesus said that life will not be easy for His followers. Paul encouraged Timothy to not give up. The Bible gives us hope that this life on earth is temporary. Following Jesus is worth it. When we trust in Him, we have hope of forgiveness and life with God forever. Challenge kids to commit to reading the Bible regularly.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Tim. 6:11-12.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: CAN YOU HEAR ME?



Choose a listener and a whisperer. Give the listener over-ear hearing protection.

Direct the whisperer to face the listener and whisper a word or phrase while the other kids in the room sing, talk, and clap. Encourage the listener to guess what the whisperer is saying. Play several rounds with different volunteers.

SAY “With hearing protection on and loud noises all around, it was impossible to understand the whisperer unless you could read lips. We read God’s Word, the Bible, to know what He is saying to us. Some people who are deaf can read lips, but many use sign language to communicate. That’s why some missionaries learn sign language to share the gospel with people who cannot hear.”

Use an online reference to lead the kids in spelling out Jesus in sign language. If a member of your church uses sign language, invite him or her to visit your group.

☐ OPTION 2: WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



Before the session, write the following references in random order on a dry erase board or large sheet of paper: Psalm 23:4; Matthew 6:25; James 1:19-20; Psalm 34:18; Proverbs 3:5; Psalm 100:1.

Form two teams of kids. Give each kid a Bible. Call out a scenario: “I feel afraid.*” Challenge kids to look up the references to find a verse that tells them what to do. Award 10 points to the first team to identify a corresponding verse.

*Replace “afraid” with other words: worried, angry, sad, confused, thankful. You may also include scenarios and verses of your choosing.

SAY “Great work, everyone. **What is the Bible? The Bible is God’s Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves. It helps us live for God and tells us everything we need to know to have forgiveness and salvation through Jesus.**”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for giving us His Word. Pray that God would help kids understand His Word and live for His glory. As time allows, lead kids to complete “How Should We Live?” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 7 • Session 3

THE BIBLE HELPS US LIVE FOR GOD

2 Timothy 3

WHAT IS THE BIBLE? THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD THAT TELLS US WHAT IS TRUE ABOUT GOD AND OURSELVES.

Paul wrote a letter to his friend Timothy. Paul was a follower of Jesus. He was also a missionary. Timothy had traveled with Paul and now was a leader at a church.

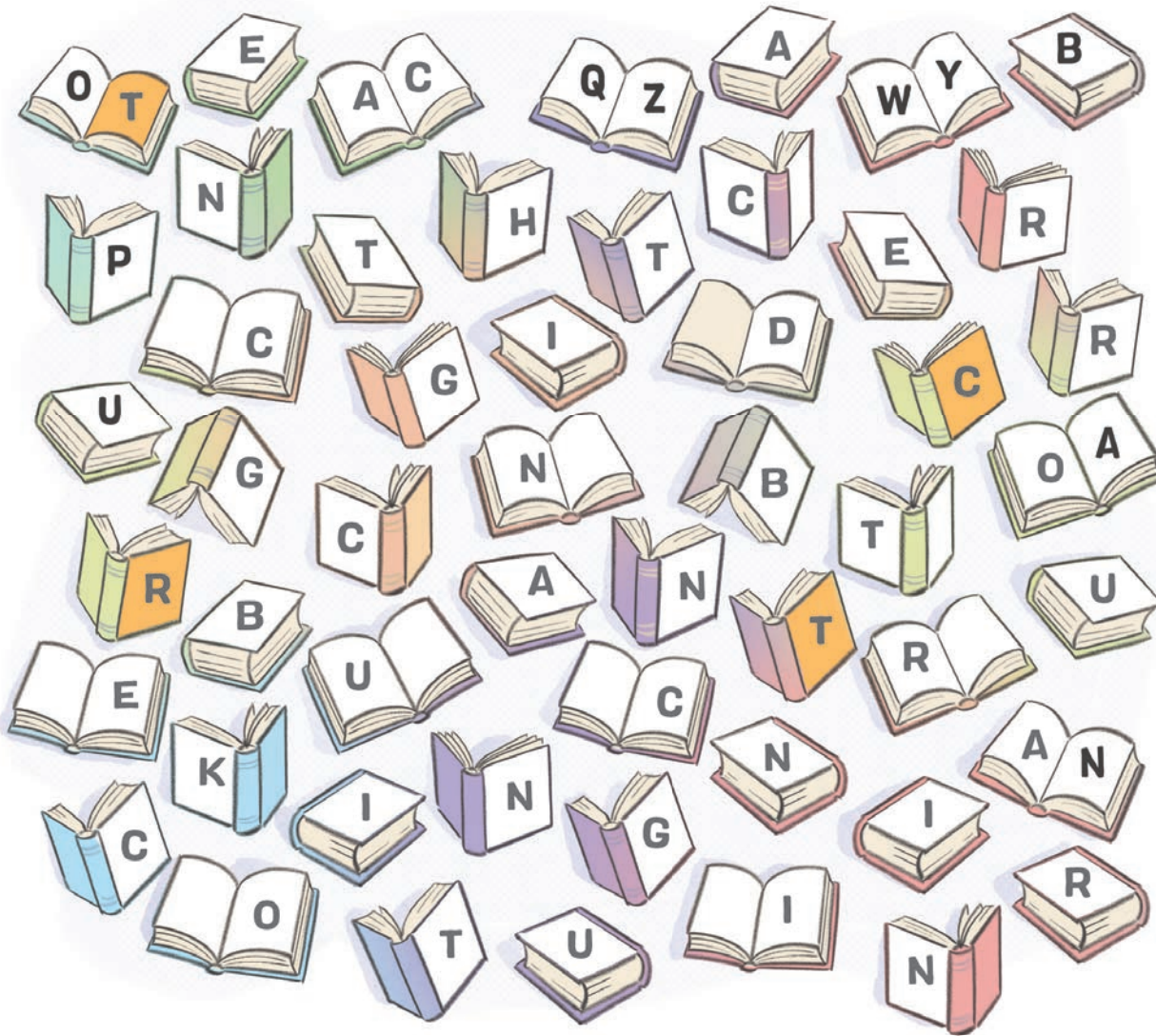
Two letters from Paul to Timothy are part of the Bible. In the second letter, Paul wrote: "Hard times are coming. Some people will not live for God. They will love themselves and money most of all. Instead of loving God, they will do whatever feels good to them."

"You know me well, and you even suffered like I did. Everyone who wants to live for Jesus will face hard times, too. From the time you were a child, you learned from Scripture. The Scriptures give you the wisdom you need to be saved."

Paul said, "All Scripture is inspired by God. It is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness. With the Bible, everyone who follows God can be ready and have everything they need to do every good work."

Christ Connection: Paul wrote to teach Timothy how to live for God. The Bible tells us about God's plan for people to have forgiveness through His Son, Jesus. Jesus obeyed God's Word perfectly. We can follow Jesus' example to read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live for God's glory.

Along Those Lines | Start at an orange page. Draw lines between neighboring books to connect the letters for each key word: teaching, rebuking, correcting, training. Some books may be used more than once.



Micah 6:8

Mark 12:30

Ephesians 5:1

Luke 9:23

Matthew 5:16

How Should We Live? | Find and read each Scripture passage in your Bible. Write in your own words what the Bible says about how followers of Jesus should live.

NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

The Bible Helps Us Live for God

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Paul, a follower of Jesus, wrote a letter to Timothy, a younger leader in the church.
- Paul told Timothy that many people will dishonor God and choose sin.
- Timothy needed to know what was true, so Paul reminded him that Scripture is completely trustworthy.
- The Bible is inspired by God, which means it is God's Word.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Paul wrote to teach Timothy how to live for God. The Bible tells us about God's plan for people to have forgiveness through His Son, Jesus. Jesus obeyed God's Word perfectly. We can follow Jesus' example to read, believe, and obey the Bible as we live for God's glory.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 119:105

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.

