



LETTERS TO GOD'S PEOPLE

Teaching us How to Live

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture The Gospels and the Epistles

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- God's people were growing in numbers, but how would they grow strong in their faith? God chose some of Jesus' special followers to write letters to complete God's holy book.
- The biblical authors wrote under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.
- These letters told of God's love, and taught people how to live. They helped God's people grow in faith and made God's young church strong.
- These letters were collected and made up the New Testament, and together with the books of the Old Testament they made up the Bible.

Memory Verse "God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." (2 Timothy 3:16 - NIRV)

ACNA

**Catechism
Connection**

The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:

Q 26 What is Holy Scripture? ...God's Word written, given by the Holy Spirit through prophets and apostles...

Q 32 What does it mean that the Bible is the Word of God? ...inspired by the Holy Spirit...his works and his will made known to us...God continues to speak through the Bible today.

Q 35 How should belief in the God of the Bible affect your life? ...teach, rebuke, correct and train me in the ways of God

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props: Scrolls (New Testament), a basket with Old Testament scrolls, copies of the memory verse and a sheet of stickers for each child.

Costumes: John, Matthew, Luke & Paul

Memory Verse: "God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." (2 Timothy 3:16 - NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.



Looking at the books of the New Testament together

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this poster? (Scrolls)

I wonder who wrote these scrolls.

I wonder what's written in them.

Let's find out more in our story...



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster:*

*Today we learn about some of the people who wrote different parts of the Bible, in what we call the New Testament. These men were disciples of our Lord Jesus. God, through the Holy Spirit, told the disciples what to write about Jesus, and they listened. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are books that we call the Gospels. They tell us about Jesus' life and his teachings and about Jesus' death and resurrection. Paul is another man that God chose to write letters to help the believers grow in their faith. There were others who also wrote letters telling everyone how to live a life that glorifies God. These letters are important to strengthen us and to correct us in all good things. All these books and letters were written under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, and they were written on scrolls. A few years later, Church leaders gathered these New Testament scrolls together with the Old Testament scrolls and made them into one wonderful book which is the complete Bible. The Bible is the Word of God and is very important to us even today because God **still** speaks to his people through his Word.*

STORY:

TEACHER: In our last lesson, we heard about the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples of Jesus, and they received power to boldly tell others about Jesus.

Each day, more people were accepting Jesus as their King and following him.

But, how would these people grow strong in their faith? Many of these people had not met Jesus or seen him. They had not talked with Jesus or even heard him teach.

DISCIPLE #1: I wonder how we can help new followers of Jesus to understand who he was and what he taught us?

DISCIPLE #2: Yes, I was also wondering how we can teach people today....and, in the future.

TEACHER: God knew exactly what to do for his people! God selected some

disciples of Jesus to write letters to different people in different churches, instructing them how to live. God's Holy Spirit inspired and guided the words that the disciples wrote. The words were recorded on scrolls and were later collected to become the New Testament. God's mighty works and his ways were being made known to the growing church.

ACTION: *John walks onto the stage, holding a scroll.*

TEACHER: Here comes one of these disciples now. Let's ask him what he wrote.

Hello Sir. What is your name? What letter did you write?

JOHN: Hi. My name is John. I was one of the 12 disciples, God inspired me. He gave me thoughts and words and I wrote the Gospel of John. My message was to tell people about Jesus and the things that he did and said when he was with us.

TEACHER: Thank you.

ACTION: *Matthew walks onto the stage, holding a scroll.*

TEACHER: Here comes another person. Let's find out what he wrote.

Hello Sir....Who are you? Did you write a letter to the church?

MATTHEW: Hello my friends. My name is Matthew. God gave me a wonderful opportunity to write a letter called the Gospel of Matthew. My letter recorded events that took place when Jesus was with us.

TEACHER: Thank you, Matthew.

ACTION: *Luke walks onto the stage, holding a scroll.*

TEACHER: Here comes another person. Hello....We are wondering who are you? Did you write any letters?

LUKE: Hello. Yes, my name is Luke, and I am a doctor. God also inspired me, and I wrote a letter to record things that happened when Jesus lived here on earth. The letter is called the Gospel of Luke.

TEACHER: Thank you, Luke

ACTION: *Paul walks onto the stage, holding a scroll.*

TEACHER: Wow....look everyone (point to Paul), here comes Paul. We know that Paul wrote many of the books of the New Testament, but he was not a follower of Jesus when Jesus was on earth.

Let's ask Paul how he knew about Jesus. Paul, how did you know Jesus?

PAUL: At first, I did not know Jesus. Actually, I was very upset with people who followed him. But one day after Jesus had risen from the dead, I was traveling to a city. As I travelled, Jesus appeared to me in a bright light. It was so bright, I fell to the ground. Then Jesus told me to follow Him.

After this event, God allowed me to write letters to several churches. I reminded the people to keep believing in Jesus and to love one another.

I wrote these letters to help God's people grow in their faith.

TEACHER: Thank you Paul for writing so many letters.

Many years later, the church leaders gathered up the New Testament scrolls and put them together with the scrolls from the Old Testament into one big book. Does anyone know what this one big book is called? (*The Bible*).

ACTION: *Gather up the NT scrolls and put them into the basket with the OT scrolls, and place a large Bible beside them.*

TEACHER: Although God used many people to write these letters, each letter was inspired by God. God actually used people to write **his** very important story, but they only wrote what God's Holy Spirit told them to write. That is what is meant in the Bible verse that says: "the Word (which is the Bible) is inspired by God".

The Bible is God's Word and is very important to us because, even today, God speaks through his Word. Through the Bible, God tells us of his great love for us and how we can live to please and follow Jesus every day.

Suggested Questions:

- **What does today's lesson tell us about God?** (God chose people to write down his words, he continues to speak through his Word, the Bible, he wants us to know his love and how to grow in our faith)
- **How did Jesus' disciples know what to write in their letters and scrolls?** (they listened to the Holy Spirit and wrote what he told them)
- **Who were some of the people who wrote the letters and Gospels?** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul)
- **Why did God want these letters and stories written down?** (so that people would not forget what happened, so people would know God and learn about his Son Jesus, to strengthen believers' faith and to show us how to live a life that glorifies God.)

- Why do we call the Bible the Word of God? (because God's Holy Spirit inspired and guided the writers as they wrote. God speaks to us through the Bible.)
- What can we do to strengthen our faith and guide us in life? (read and believe God's Word every day, and do what God tells us to do in the Bible)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Hold the Bible open.

Do you have a Bible at home? What does it look like?

We know that this is a true and inspired book. What can we do with the Bible during the week?

(Read it or have someone read it to you, look at the pictures)

Why is it important to read it?

(It tells us of God's love, helps us to worship and meet with Jesus, helps us to live as a follower of Jesus, it is like spiritual food for us, God continues to speak through the Bible today)

Here is our Bible verse for today and some stickers. *(Hand out photocopies of the memory verse and the sticker sheets.)* We want you to take this home, and you can put a sticker on the page every time you read it or have someone read it to you.

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- Glue the memory verse sheets onto pieces of brown craft paper to make scrolls.
- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.



Making scrolls with memory verse

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(2 Timothy 3:16)