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Lesson 27: *Letters to God's People* (Condensed Version)

Objectives: To explain that:

- God chose some of Jesus' special followers to write letters and books to help the believers grow in their faith.
- The biblical authors wrote under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.
- These letters tell of God's love, teach people how to live and help them to grow strong in their faith.
- These letters were collected and made up the New Testament, and together with the books of the Old Testament they made up the Bible.

"I Wonder" Questions:

(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...

Lesson Summary:

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.

Suggested Questions: What does today's lesson tell us about God? (God 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)

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)