



A Close Encounter of the Bible Kind

TODAY'S BASIC TRAINING

Book of Books (B)

BIBLE CONTENT

The Bible Is a Special Treasure
Selected Scriptures

MEMORY VERSE

"Treasure My commands." Proverbs 7:1

KEY PHRASE

Love and obey the Bible today.

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Lesson Time
Part One: Welcome
Part Two: Puppet Pal
- Song Time
The B-I-B-L-E
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
- Memory Verse Time
Treasure Box

Today's Space Stations

- Coloring Corner: Book of Books (B)
- Touch Table: The Ultimate Treasure
- Dramatic Play: Awesome Astro Kids
- Science Station: Amazing Earth

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Psalm 1 and Psalm 119 to prepare your mind for teaching about the Book of books.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- Check p. 7 for more information on how the Bible is unique, and how it came to be.
- Pray.

Lesson Materials

From Teacher Resource CD-ROM

- Toddler Star pattern 1

Other Materials

- Bible
- Costume supplies for teacher(s)
- Space Station supplies (see p. 22)
- 30 books
- Boy or girl puppet with a medal around its neck
- Puppet stage, planet backdrop, or briefcase with lid flipped up
- Tape
- Treasure box

Today's Devotional: Book of Books

"I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings and will not be ashamed." Psalm 119:146

During the early spring of 1524, a young priest slipped away from London and, without the king's leave, made his way to the European continent. He was never to see his homeland again, and for the next eleven years his life was an elaborate hide-and-seek as he was pursued, at one time, by four government agents. His crime and his life's ambition were one and the same: to translate the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek and present it, printed and bound, so that even the boy who drove the plough could understand God's Word.

By the constitutions of Oxford of 1408, it was illegal—on pain of death—to read the scriptures in English without a bishop's license. To reinforce this, in April 1519, one woman and six men were burned to death at Coventry for teaching their children the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed in English.

William Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire, England, studied at Oxford, and later Cambridge, and spent two years teaching the children of Sir John and Lady Walsh in their small manor house at Little Sodbury. Here he began to translate the New Testament, and by the time he arrived on the continent it was complete. The first ever printed New Testaments in English were smuggled back into England early in 1526. Though the bishops burned the Bibles and often their owners, the Word of God became an unstoppable force across the land—England had the Bible in the vernacular at last.

(Excerpted with permission from *Travel with William Tyndale* (Day One Publications) by Brian H. Edwards. See www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n4/tyndale-and-english-bible.)

What drove William Tyndale to risk life and limb so that his fellow Englishmen could read the Bible in their own language? He knew the Bible was the "Book of books." No other book—or person—held the keys to eternal life. No other book laid out the prescription for godly living. No other book contained the true history of the universe and explained why the world is the way it is. No other book was God's written revelation to mankind.

Sadly, however, the English-speakers of Tyndale's time lacked even a rudimentary knowledge of what the scriptures actually said. Investigations by a reforming bishop in Tyndale's hometown of Gloucestershire revealed the following

about the ignorance of the ministers in the area.

Of the unsatisfactory clergy in 1551, nine did not know how many commandments there were, 33 did not know where they appeared in the Bible (the gospel of St Matthew was a favourite guess) and 168 could not repeat them. Concerning the [Apostles'] Creed, 10 could not repeat it and 216 were unable to prove it; a large number of these said that they were perfectly satisfied that it was right because the king and Mother Church said so. Most extraordinary of all, perhaps, were the results of the Lord's Prayer part of the examination: 39 did not know where it appeared in the Bible, 34 did not know who was its author, and 10 actually proved unable to recite it. (David Daniell, *William Tyndale: A Biography* [Yale University Press, 1994], p. 78.)

Lest we come down too harshly on these clergymen of 400 years ago, let's ask ourselves how well we know the Book of books. Are we ardent students of the Word of God, mining jewels from its depths, or do we have a more casual relationship with the life-giving book, merely admiring the sparkle from afar? Consider this: How much are you willing to risk to bring the Word of God to the children in your care?

Today, as we study the uniqueness of this God-breathed collection of books, let's meditate on the words of the psalmist who realized that the Bible was set apart from all other books—it is the Word of God.

Forever, O LORD,
Your word is settled in heaven.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
You established the earth, and it abides.
They continue this day according to Your ordinances,
For all are Your servants.
Unless Your law had been my delight,
I would then have perished in my affliction.
I will never forget Your precepts,
For by them You have given me life.
I am Yours, save me;
For I have sought Your precepts.
The wicked wait for me to destroy me,
But I will consider Your testimonies.
I have seen the consummation of all perfection,
But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

Psalm 119:89–96

Space Stations

Coloring Corner: Book of Books (8)

Materials

- Day 01 Toddler coloring sheet
- Markers or crayons

Pre-prep

Photocopy the coloring sheet, 1 per child.

Directions

Color the sheet.

Teaching Tie-In

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet.

Alternative Coloring Corner Idea

From cardstock or sandpaper, cut out a thick B. Tape it to the table and use for rubbings. Cadets put a piece of paper over top and use a crayon to rub over.

Touch Table: The Ultimate Treasure

Materials

- Objects in the shapes of Bibles (e.g., Bible erasers, Bible stickers, or make extra of the Day 02 craft—Book-of-Books Bible Buddy—found in the Craft Guide)
- Play sand or other material through which to dig (e.g., shredded crinkle paper, packing peanuts)
- Under-the-bed storage bin, small wading pool, or “official” touch table
- Tarp or plastic tablecloth

Pre-prep

Place a tarp on the ground under the touch table. Place the sand in the touch table. This will be used all week. Hide the Bible-shaped objects in the sand.

Directions

Find the Bible-shaped objects.

Teaching Tie-In

Before starting, say:

You are about to look for the greatest treasure in the whole world. Dig in, and see what it is!

After finding them, say:

The Bible is a special book. It is a treasure from God. The Bible says: “Treasure My commands.”

Dramatic Play: Awesome Astro Hids

Materials

Note: Use any or all of the following, depending on your situation. These will be used all week.

- Refrigerator box and decorating supplies for space shuttle (see p. 14)
- Mission control center supplies, such as play laptop computers, headsets, walkie-talkies, clipboards, sunglasses
- Astronaut helmets (plastic ice cream buckets or clean fast food chicken containers, spray painted silver or white and turned upside down; milk jugs, spray painted silver or white, with the bottom and front side cut out)
- Astronaut boots (kids’ puffy boots spray painted silver or white; shoebox lids with shoestrings to tie on)
- Astronaut jet packs (cardboard box or 2-liter pop bottles turned upside down and duct taped together with shoulder straps made from duct tape folded on itself so sticky sides are together)
- Astronaut suits (old puffy coats, kids’ flight suits, or 18 x 36 in. silver or metallic fabric pieces, with a hole cut in the middle of each for a child’s head to fit through)
- Old briefcases or small suitcases, spray painted silver
- Telescopes (paper towel tubes covered with foil and stickers)

Day 01

Pre-prep

Make the refrigerator box space shuttle, the mission control center, and whichever astronaut clothes and supplies you choose. Gather other astronaut supplies.

Directions

Dress up and pretend to be astronauts or mission control workers.

Teaching Tie-In

God made everything, including outer space. Astronauts like to explore outer space. We use their discoveries to learn more about God's incredible universe.

Science Station: Amazing Earth

Materials

- Blue and green play-dough

Pre-prep

Make or buy the play-dough.

Directions

The kids roll the play-dough into balls, like the shape of earth.

Teaching Tie-In

God made earth, the place where we live, and it is just right for us.

- Bible
- Costume supplies for teacher(s)
- 30 sturdy books

PRE-PREP:

- Place books (not in a stack) across the room. Make sure there are enough for each child to use one.
- Stack the rest of the books next to you.

☆ Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference.

☆ If you have no teaching assistant, delete the Flight Instructor Two part.

☆ Calling yourself names like "Commander Buzz" or "Astronaut Annie" adds to the fun.

☆ Decide ahead of time which person wants to be responsible for which sections of the lesson.

Lesson Time (10 minutes)

Part One: Welcome

Dress in clothes that would be worn at a space academy as you begin this section (flight suit or athletic pants and T-shirt, lanyard, sunglasses, play headset or walkie talkies, boots). Plan to wear them every day. Say the following:

Flight Instructor One (Master Teacher): Welcome, little space cadets! My name is _____.

Flight Instructor Two (Teaching Assistant): And my name is _____.

Flight Instructor One: We will be your flight instructors this week at *Operation Space*. We're going to have a blast as we learn about God's WORLD and God's WORD, the Bible.

Let's get ready to begin our astronaut training. First, let's pretend to put on our flight suits. Young astronauts, called cadets, need to wear flight suits so they can move about easily.

Pretend to don flight suits.

Now let's put on our cadet boots.

Pretend to put on cadet boots.

Lace them up tightly. We don't want them to fall off in space!

And finally, let's put on our sunglasses.

Pretend to get them out and put them on top of your head.

It can get bright in space!

Now it looks like we are ready. Let's do a few warm-up exercises.

Do a few bends and stretches.

Now let's sit down and listen to our first training session of the day.

After everyone is settled, say:

Look at this big stack of books near me. Do you think we can make it even higher? I see some books across the room. Let's take turns bringing one at a time and making a big, tall stack.

Have the little cadets take turns picking up a book and bringing it over to add to the pile. Admire how big the stack is getting. When finished, say:

This is a big stack! Can you imagine if we kept stacking books till they touched the ceiling? What if they filled this whole room? What if they filled this whole building or the whole world? That would be a lot of books.

All these books are written by people. But there is one book that is different than all the books in the whole wide world. It is the Bible. The Bible is the only book that is written by God. It is a one-of-a-kind, perfect, Book of books.

Part Two: Puppet Pal

Instructor: Let me introduce you to Skyler, the puppet, and he can tell you more about this Book of books, the Bible. Ready? Let's call him. Skyler! Skyler!

Skyler: Pop up with a medal around his neck, or some other kind of award pinned on. Hi there, _____.

Instructor: Hi, Skyler. What's that you have around your neck today?

Skyler: It's a medal. I got it for reading the most books in my school. It's a special award that only I received.

Instructor: It's the only medal like it?

Skyler: Yep. It's one-of-a-kind.

Instructor: Well, speaking of one-of-a-kind reminds me of something. I was just telling the boys and girls about a one-of-a-kind book.

Skyler: You must be talking about the Bible. It is a one-of-a-kind book all right, written by God! I think it deserves a medal for that.

Instructor: Put a star award on Skyler's shirt. How about a star? God wrote us a book, and that deserves a star. In fact, I know a great song the boys and girls can help us sing about that very thing. Boys and girls, do you know *The B-I-B-L-E*? Let's sing it together now.

The B-I-B-L-E,	Remain sitting down, putting hands together to form a closed book.
Yes, that's the Book for me.	Form an open book.
I stand alone on the word of God.	Stand up.
The B-I-B-L-E.	Bounce a little.
The Bible!	Shout it enthusiastically.

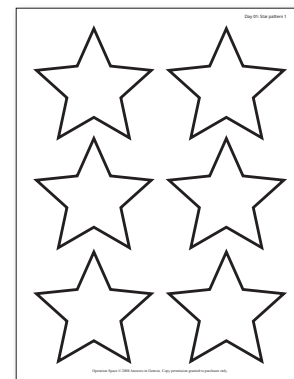
After singing it once or twice, have the children sit back down, and continue.

Skyler: But that's not all. The Bible deserves other stars, too.

- Boy or girl puppet with a medal around its neck
- Puppet stage, planet backdrop, skirted table, or briefcase with lid flipped up
- Toddler Star pattern 1
- Tape

PRE-PREP:

1. Photocopy and cut out the Star pattern. Put a tape loop on the back of each star.
2. Make 2 photocopies of the puppet script. Tape one inside the puppet stage and put one on a clipboard for instructor.



☆ Skyler the puppet is referred to as a "he," but a girl puppet can also be used.

☆ If doing this section by yourself, Skyler can pop up from inside a briefcase. Keep Skyler's lower body behind the lid. Paint the briefcase silver and decorate it with stars.

Day 01

Instructor: Like what?

SKYLER: Well, for instance, the Bible is perfect. It does not have even *one* mistake in it.

Instructor: That's awesome. Let's give it a star for that.

Put another star on Skyler's shirt.

SKYLER: Also, the One who wrote it cannot tell a lie. Everything God says is completely true.

Instructor: It *is* the best book ever.

Put a star on Skyler's arm.

SKYLER: And how about the fact that the Bible is read more than any other book?

Instructor: That deserves star four, for being the most read book.

Put a star on Skyler's other arm.

SKYLER: And there are more copies of the Bible than any other book.

Instructor: Star five. This is amazing.

Put a star on the top of Skyler's head.

SKYLER: And how about the fact that God changes people's lives as they read the Bible? Ask around, and you will hear over and over how the message of the Bible changes people's lives from sad to glad.

Instructor: Star six. We are running out of room!

Put a star on Skyler's mouth.

Instructor: We could go on and on, but I think the boys and girls see that the Bible is a book like no other book. It is a super star! Thanks for sharing that with us, Skyler. We'll talk to you more about the Bible tomorrow.

SKYLER: Sound muffled. That sounds good. Right now, I'm going to go show my mom my award! See you tomorrow.

Instructor: Boys and girls, the Bible is a special book, and it should be loved and obeyed. Let's say our special words together. I'll say them first, then you repeat them with me. ***Love and obey the Bible today.***

Do the following motions when saying the key phrase each day.

Love Hug yourself.

And obey Salute.

The Bible Make a book with your hands.

Today Nod yes.

Song Time (5 minutes)

Sing *The B-I-B-L-E.*

Chorus:

The B-I-B-L-E,	Remain sitting down, putting hands together to form a closed book.
Yes, that's the Book for me.	Form an open book.
I stand alone on the word of God.	Stand up.
The B-I-B-L-E.	Bounce a little.
The Bible!	Shout it enthusiastically.

Sing *He's Got the Whole World In His Hands.*

Chorus:

He's got the whole world in His hands,
 He's got the whole wide world in His hands.
 He's got the whole world in His hands,
 He's got the whole world in His hands.

Verses:

Verse One: He's got all of the children (point to them) in His hands . . .
 Verse Two: He's got all of the babies (Waah! Waah!) in His hands . . .
 Verse Three: He's got all of the mommies (sing in a high voice) in His hands . . .
 Verse Four: He's got all of the daddies (sing in a low voice) in His hands . . .

☆ Insert individual kids' names in the verses, such as "He's got Steve and Katie in His hands."

Memory Verse Time (5 minutes)

Treasure Box

Put a Bible inside the treasure box. Slowly open the box and pull out the Bible. Give it a hug and tell the cadets that the Bible is a treasure. It is God's Word. God says: "Treasure My commands." Have the cadets say the words with you while doing the following motions:

Treasure Give yourself a big hug.

My Point up to God.

Commands Salute.

Today's Verse

"Treasure My commands." Proverbs 7:1

- Bible
- Treasure box

PRE-PREP:

1. Find, buy, or make a treasure box. To make one, use a copy paper box. Attach the lid at the back with duct tape and spray paint the whole thing gold. Attach sticker-backed jewels, available at craft stores. This box will be used all week.