

LESSON 71

God Breathed the Scriptures

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17



— BIBLE TRUTH —

THE SCRIPTURES ARE ABLE TO CARRY US THROUGH TIMES OF EVIL AND TRIAL

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: whiteboard and dry-erase marker

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 149)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 71—one for each child; markers or crayons

Our Bible Tool Belt

SUPPLIES: a carpenter’s tool belt full of tools

People Are the Pen

SUPPLIES: a marker and paper

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

Today the children will learn that God gave us the Bible to make us wise for salvation through Christ Jesus.

Explain to the children that the Bible tells us that “all Scripture is breathed out by God” (2 Timothy 3:16). “Breathed out” simply means that the Bible came from God. The Holy Spirit led the men who wrote the Bible to write down God’s words. So, just like our words are breathed out, so is God’s Word!

Have a helper write on a whiteboard the story of one of the simple parables, like the treasure in a field or the lost coin, as you tell it. When you finish, read the story they wrote on the board. Ask the class the following questions:

- **Who wrote the story on the board?**
(They should say the name of the person who did the writing.)
- **Who gave her the words to write?**
(They should say you did.)
- **Who wrote the books of the Bible?**
(followers of God the Father and Jesus, God’s Son—mostly prophets and the disciples of Jesus)
- **Who gave them the words to write?**
(the Holy Spirit)

Have the children hold their hands one-quarter inch away from the front of their mouths while they repeat, “The Scriptures are breathed out by God.” Ask them if they could feel their own breath come out when they spoke. Try the exercise again and then simply explain that when the Bible describes the Scriptures as “God-breathed” it simply means they came from God. God inspired the writers to write them down. The Bible comes from God!

Take time to pray and thank God for his Word. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 149, “God Breathed the Scriptures,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **Why did God give us the Bible?**
(to make us wise for salvation through Christ Jesus [2 Timothy 3:15])

- **What is salvation through Christ Jesus?**
(The Bible tells us the story of Jesus who died for our sins, taking the penalty that we deserved—Jesus saved us from our sins. This is the primary message of the Bible.)

- **What do we call Jesus’ story of salvation?**
(the good news; the gospel)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today’s Bible story fit into God’s greater plan of redemption?

The Scriptures are profitable to train us in righteousness. Once the Scriptures teach us God’s laws, we soon realize we cannot ever hope to keep the law. Once we see our failure, and then read about God’s salvation through Jesus, we can repent of our sin and trust him.

Paul described that process in Timothy’s life when he said the Scriptures were able to “make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15). In that phrase, we see that the purpose of God’s Word in both the Old and New Testaments is to point to the salvation available through Christ’s death on the cross. Jesus told his disciples on the road to Emmaus how the Old Testament pointed to him (Luke 24:27). The Bible is not first a book of rules, but a book of faith. Salvation does not come by works, but by faith (Ephesians 2:8–9).

- What do we learn about God when we study the way that he made things?
(We learn that God is full of power and that the things he created are good, which speaks of his goodness.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- When did Paul say Timothy first learned the Bible?
(from childhood)
- How can children learn the Bible if they can't read?
(They can have their parents read it to them and they can learn from teaching and preaching.)
- How can the Bible help children?
(The Bible tells God's story so that children can know who God is. The Bible tells us God's plan for people to be saved from their sin. Children can learn these stories and place their hope and trust in Jesus.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 71—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What is happening in the picture?
(wind is blowing across a Bible)

- What does it mean that the Bible is God-breathed?

(It means that God wrote the Bible and that God's Word came from his mouth.)

- How did God write the Bible through people?

(The Holy Spirit showed them what to write.)

- Can we trust that what the Bible says is true?

(Because the Holy Spirit directed the people so that they wrote God's words, we can trust that the Bible is completely true.)

Our Bible Tool Belt

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a carpenter's tool belt full of tools (ask a carpenter in church to bring one in for the class to see)

Explain to the children that the Bible is like a carpenter's tool belt. Go through the various tools and ask them if they know the names and what they're used for. Explain to the class that the Bible is our spiritual tool belt, and different verses are like the tools we use to help us every day.

Here are some of the ways the Bible helps us according to 2 Timothy 3:16:

- The Bible teaches us.
- The Bible corrects (reproves) us.
- The Bible trains us in righteousness.

Ask the children how good a carpenter would be if he pounded nails with a screwdriver or never learned to use pliers. What kind of carpenter leaves his tools at home? Of course, he would not be a good carpenter. Explain to the children that once they know how to read, they should use their tools (Bible) every day.

People Are the Pen

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a marker and paper

Write on a sheet of paper in front of the class. Ask the children to describe what you are doing. (The children should say that you are writing.) Hold up the paper and ask them, "What wrote this here?" (They will likely repeat that you wrote

it.) You can then tell them that the marker wrote it there. Explain that you used the marker to write the words, but the marker did the actual writing. In the same way, God wrote the Bible. He used people as his markers, but God is the one who breathed on their hearts and minds to know what to write.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

