

TEACHER NOTECARDS LEVEL 2, QUARTER A—
HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

Use these Teacher Notecards as a reference when teaching *Explore Scripture*. Choose the outline form or narrative form based on your teaching style and preference.*

Print on paper or cardstock. Fold in half, then fold again along the gray line. This will create a two-sided, notecard-sized piece for you to hold in your hand.

*The narrative form has been edited to fit on these cards. Please see the full *Explore Scripture* sections of each lesson for more interactivity, application, and content.

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Big Idea: **The Bible is God's wondrous map to guide people through life.**

2 Chronicles 34 [outline form]

Intro: *King Josiah recovered God's Word and read it to the people.*

Ask: *How important is God's Word?*

1. Josiah became king of Judah (picture 2A.1). The people had turned their backs on God and had lost God's Word.

- *Josiah was eight years old when he became king 2 Chronicles 34:1*
- *Josiah did what was right and tried to please God 34:2*
- *He destroyed idols and purified Jerusalem 34:3*

2. King Josiah ordered the purification of the Temple in Jerusalem.

- *Josiah sent Hilkiah and Shaphan to oversee the repair of the Temple . . 34:8-9*
- *Everyone performed their jobs faithfully. 34:12*
- *Hilkiah found the book of the Law in the Temple (picture 2A.2) 34:14*
- *Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, who brought it to Josiah. 34:15-16*

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3. King Josiah read God's Word. It changed his life forever.

- *Josiah heard the words and knew his people had sinned 34:21*
- *God told Josiah that He forgave Josiah 34:27*
- *Josiah read God's Word to everyone in his kingdom. 34:30-31*
- *Everyone pledged themselves to follow God and His Word. 34:32-33*

Conclusion: *Discovering God's Word changed King Josiah's life and the lives of his people. Imagine how the Bible will change your life!*

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Big Idea: **The Bible is God's wondrous map to guide people through life.**

2 Chronicles 34 [narrative form]

Intro: *King Josiah recovered God's Word and read it to the people.*

Ask: *How important is God's Word?*

Could you imagine a world without the Bible? We wouldn't know how to worship God or know anything about Him. Today we are going to learn about a Bible-times people who lost God's Word.

Many, many years ago, in a land called Judah, people stopped reading God's Word. It wasn't long before they didn't care what was right or wrong. They lost all the copies of God's Word, and they forgot it ever existed. Years went by, and they even forgot about God! The people found themselves in a lot of trouble, and they had no one to tell them what to do.

Then one day a wonderful thing happened! A new king was crowned! He was only eight years old (picture 2A.1)! Josiah became the king of the whole country of Judah. Josiah was a good king because Josiah still knew about God and wanted

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to please Him. Josiah did many great things as king. He destroyed the idols of false gods his people had made. Josiah tried to get them to worship God again. King Josiah ordered, "Clean out the Temple so we can worship the one true God there."

One day, as the Temple was being cleaned, Hilkiah the priest discovered a rolled-up package hidden in a secret spot in the Temple. Hilkiah blew the dust from it. Hilkiah had discovered God's Word (picture 2A.2)! It had been lost for years—hidden in a dusty corner of the Temple. Hilkiah gave it to Shaphan the scribe, who rushed to show King Josiah the scroll.

"What is it?" Josiah wanted to know. "It's God's Word!" said Shaphan. "If we read it, we will know how God wants us to live!" "Really?" asked Josiah in a happy voice. "Then read it to me! Read it to me!" So Shaphan read it, and King Josiah heard God's Word for the very first time.

Josiah shared the scroll with his entire kingdom! All the people heard God's Word. The people realized that they had sinned and asked God to forgive them. Josiah and all the people in his kingdom made a promise to God that day. They promised to read God's Word, do what it told them to do, and to worship only the one true God!

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Level 2A—How We Got the Bible Lesson 2: *The Bible Came from God*

Big Idea: **The Bible is God's inspired gift to all people.**

Joshua 1:1-9 [outline form]

Intro: *God reminded Joshua that He had given Moses His Word.*

Ask: *How would the Bible be different if it did not come from God?*

1. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. They came directly from God's hand (picture 2A.3).

- *God wrote the Ten Commandments on stone Deuteronomy 5:22*
- *God directed Moses to write the book of the Law 6:1-2*

2. Joshua became the Hebrews' next leader.

- *Moses passed away Joshua 1:1*
- *God would fulfill His promise to His people. 1:2-3*
- *God promised to be with Joshua 1:5*

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3. God reminded Joshua to obey His Word. He wanted Joshua to know how important His words are.

- *God told Joshua to obey the Word given to him by Moses 1:7*
- *Joshua was to meditate on the Book of the Law (picture 2A.4) 1:8*
- *God promised again to be with Joshua. 1:9*

Conclusion: *When Joshua became the leader, God told him to follow the Book of the Law before doing anything else. Turn to the Bible first in everything you do!*

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Level 2A—How We Got the Bible Lesson 2: *The Bible Came from God*

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Joshua 1:1-9 [narrative form]

Intro: *God reminded Joshua that He had given Moses His Word.*

Ask: *How would the Bible be different if it did not come from God?*

How many of you know about the Ten Commandments God wrote in stone for Moses (picture 2A.3)? God carved the Ten Commandments in stone, but He later told Moses to write everything He said, and Moses wrote it on paper. Moses knew how to read and write because he had been trained in Pharaoh's court as a child. Back then, Moses had paper called "parchment" that he rolled up on either side to make a scroll. The scrolls God had him write were called the book of the Law. The Book of the Law was the first five books of our Bible today.

By the time that Moses died, God's people had the book that God told Moses to write. Moses didn't just make up the Book of the Law himself. That book was God's gift to His people so they would know how to follow Him.

Now a man named Joshua was Moses' helper, and he loved God too. When Moses died, Joshua took his place (picture 2A.4).

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God told Joshua, "Cross over the Jordan River, and I will give you the land. No one will be able to defeat you. Be strong and brave and do everything according to the book of the Law that I told Moses to write." God wanted to make sure that Joshua knew that the words that Moses wrote down on the parchment paper came directly from Him. He also wanted Joshua to know that His words were important.

God gave His people the book of the Law as a gift, and He made sure to tell Joshua what to do with that gift. *Did you ever get a present that your parents needed to explain to you after you opened it?* Allow for responses. Well, God told Joshua to tell everyone what to do with His Word: read it, talk about it, think about it, and obey it. And God wants us to do the same thing today with our Bibles.

God first gave us the gift of our Bibles by telling Moses what to write, and then He made sure that Joshua and everyone else knew the importance of reading, talking about, thinking about, and obeying His Word. The Bible is God's inspired gift to all people. We need to treasure our Bibles and take great care of them!

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Big Idea: **The Bible tells about God and reveals His plan for people.**

Deuteronomy 10 [outline form]

Intro: *God gave us the Bible so we would know about Him.*

Ask: *What can the Bible tell you about God?*

1. God loves His people and gave them another chance when they disobeyed Him.
 - *God told Moses to cut stone for another set of commandments . . . Deuteronomy 10:1*
 - *God wrote the Ten Commandments a second time (picture 2A.5). 10:4*
 - *God loved His people 10:10*
2. God told His people what He wanted from them (picture 2A.6).
 - *God wants us to fear, obey, love, and serve Him 10:12*
 - *God wants us to keep His rules 10:13*
 - *God wants us to be humble, not stubborn 10:16*
 - *God wants us to love everyone because God loves us 10:19*

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3. God told His people what He would do for them.
 - *God is all-powerful, and everything belongs to Him 10:14*
 - *God chose to love His people 10:15*
 - *God is mighty, awesome, and just 10:17*
 - *God takes care of everyone, even those who have no one 10:18*

Conclusion: *God showed His people what He wanted them to know, who He wanted them to be, and what He wanted them to do. The Bible can show you the same things about yourself!*

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Big Idea: **The Bible tells about God and reveals His plan for people.**

Deuteronomy 10 [narrative form]

Intro: *God gave us the Bible so we would know about Him.*

Ask: *What can the Bible tell you about God?*

Today we are going to see how God called His people into a covenant, which is an agreement, and how that agreement shows God's heart toward us. God has great plans for all of us, and the Bible tells us all about God and His plans.

God also shows us that He loves us and always gives us another chance. The Hebrews disobeyed so much that God became angry, and Moses threw down the stone tablets that contained the Ten Commandments, breaking them (picture 2A.5)! But God did not leave His people. He gave Moses a new set of the Ten Commandments and called His people into a covenant.

With the covenant, God showed His people what He wanted them to know, who He wanted them to be, and what He wanted them to do. God also told them what He would do for them. You try to obey and love your parents, but your parents also do things for you.

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Now we are going to find out what God wanted from His people, and what He wants from us. Read Deuteronomy 10:12-16 and 19, and explain each verse in your own words, and allow time for children to ask questions. Verse 12: *God wants us to fear, obey, love, and serve Him.* Verse 13: *God wants us to keep His rules.* Verse 14: *God is all-powerful, and everything belongs to Him.* Verse 15: *God chose to love His people.* Verse 16: *God wants us to be humble, not stubborn.* Verse 19: *Love everyone, even strangers, because God loves you.*

God also tells us who He is and what He will do. Read Deuteronomy 10:17-18 and explain in your own words, allowing time for questions. Verse 17: *God is mighty, awesome, and just.* Verse 18: *He takes care of everyone, even people who have no one to care for them.*

God told His people to keep His commandments and to love Him (picture 2A.6). In return, God promised to do “great and awesome” things for them, things so wonderful that they couldn’t even imagine them. You can be sure that God has given you these same promises in the Bible. He wants to do “great and awesome” things for you, too! Reading your Bible will show you more and more about who God is, what He wants, and what He will do!

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Big Idea: **God led human authors to write down His inspired words.**

Deuteronomy 33:1-4; Luke 1:1-4 [outline form]

Intro: *God inspired men like Moses and Luke to write the Bible.*

Ask: *Why do you think God used people to write the Bible?*

1. Moses was the first human author of God's words. God spoke directly to Moses and inspired him as he wrote.

- *Moses wrote the book of the Law (picture 2A.7) Deuteronomy 33:4*
- *The book of the Law contains the first five books of our Bible*
- *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*

2. Luke also wrote God's words. Luke desired to write an accurate account of Jesus' life.

- *Luke was a physician (doctor) Colossians 4:14*
- *Luke was not an eyewitness to Jesus Luke 1:2*

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3. Luke used three sources to write his Gospel (picture 2A.8).

- *He read the accounts of others 1:1*
- *He investigated and interviewed eyewitnesses 1:2-3*
- *He relied on the Holy Spirit 1:2,4*

Conclusion: *Men wrote the words of the Bible, but the words are all from God. Treasure your Bible as God's special message to you!*

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Big Idea: **God led human authors to write down His inspired words.**

Deuteronomy 33:1-4; Luke 1:1-4 [narrative form]

Intro: *God inspired men like Moses and Luke to write the Bible.*

Ask: *Why do you think God used people to write the Bible?*

Good morning, boys and girls. My name is Dr. Luke. I lived in Bible times when Jesus was on earth. I've come here today to tell you what it was like to help write the Word of God. Yes, I am one of the men God used to help write His Holy Word, just like Moses.

God inspired Moses. Moses wrote five books that are now the books at the front of your Bible (picture 2A.7). *Can you name them?* Encourage responses. *Now can you tell me which two books I wrote?* Have students open their Bibles to the "Contents" page and find Luke and Acts.

First, you should know that I am a medical doctor. Doctors pay very close attention to things. I have to make sure that I listen closely to my patients so that I can figure out what's wrong with them. My carefulness helped me write God's Word. When God breathed His words to me, I paid close attention! I wrote exactly what God wanted me

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to write, and I was very careful not to write one single word that was not true.

Now, we didn't have cameras back when I was alive, but if we had, the disciples would have taken many pictures of Jesus. They spent their days and nights with Him and witnessed His miracles, stories, death, and resurrection. I listened to the disciples and wrote down their stories exactly as they took place.

When a doctor needs to learn more about an illness, he reads what other doctors have written. If I needed to make sure about something from Jesus' life, I carefully read what other eyewitnesses had written. I also talked with people who had seen the events. I was "triple sure" that what I wrote was true because I had talked with people who had seen it with their own eyes, I had read the same true things written by other eyewitnesses, and God breathed the words to me. This helped me understand exactly what I should write (picture 2A.8).

When you read the Bible books that I wrote, you can be sure that what you are reading is true. God inspired not only the books that Moses and I wrote, but all 66 books in the Bible. When you read it, pay extra special attention and listen carefully to what God says. When you tell other people what God's Word says, please be very careful to explain it truthfully!

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Big Idea: **Trained scribes made exact copies of God's Word.**

Deuteronomy 17:18-19; Ezra 7:6-10 [outline form]

Intro: *God preserved His Word through people who made exact copies.*

Ask: *Why is it important to be careful when we read and talk about the Bible?*

1. In Bible times, God's Word was recopied by hand.
 - *Scrolls would decay and not survive more than a generation.*
 - *Trained people called scribes made copies.*
 - *They used scrolls and quill pens to make their copies.*
 - *Scribes made exact copies without mistakes.*
2. Moses first commanded God's people to make copies of His Word (picture 2A.9).
 - *When a man became king, he made a copy of the Law . . . Deuteronomy 17:18*
 - *He copied it in front of the priests 17:18*
 - *He read it and followed it all the days of his life 17:19*

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3. Ezra was a trained scribe and scholar.
 - *He was a teacher of the Law of Moses (picture 2A.10) Ezra 7:6*
 - *Ezra devoted himself to study, obeying, and teaching the Law 7:10*
 - *God was with Ezra 7:6, 9*
4. Scribes had to follow strict rules when copying God's Word.
 - *Before he began, a scribe said "I am now copying the holy Word of God."*
 - *A scribe said aloud twice every word he wrote.*
 - *Before a scribe wrote God's name, he stood and said "I am now writing the holy Name of God."*
 - *When a scribe finished, he counted the letters and words in the copy and made sure they were exactly the same as the ones in the original.*

Conclusion: *God kept His Word exactly the same through the years using trained scribes. How amazing that God's Word is the same today as it was 3000 years ago!*

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Big Idea: **Trained scribes made exact copies of God's Word.**

Deuteronomy 17:18-19; Ezra 7:6-10 [narrative form]

Intro: *God preserved His Word through people who made exact copies.*

Ask: *Why is it important to be careful when we read and talk about the Bible?*

In Bible times, the only way that scrolls could survive more than a generation was for them to be recopied. The trained people who made these copies were called scribes. It took scribes many years to make one copy, because they had to make it without any mistakes. We can be certain that these scribes did not change God's Word. God watched over His Word to make sure it was without errors.

Deuteronomy 17:18-19 tells us the importance of God's Word (picture 2A.9). Moses told all future kings of Israel to hand write a copy of the Law in front of the priests so that each king could read it all the days of his life. The king probably made the copy in front of the priests so the priests could tell him if he made any mistakes and explain its meaning.

Ezra was a godly scribe in the Old Testament who lived many years after Moses. Remember, a scribe is someone whose job is to write and make copies. Let's look

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at some of the rules that Ezra had to follow to be a scribe.

First, before he sat down to copy God's Word, he had to say, "I am now copying the holy Word of God." Say it with me. "I am now copying the holy Word of God." Second, he had to say every word he wrote out loud twice. So, before he wrote the word, "tree," he would have to say, "Tree, tree." Say it with me, "Tree, tree." Only then could he write it down. Third, before he wrote down God's name, he had to stand up and loudly say, "I am now writing the holy Name of God." Stand up, and say it with me, "I am now writing the holy Name of God."

Finally, when Ezra finished writing a book, he had to count the letters and words to make sure it was exact. Raise your hand if you would like to count *every* word in the Bible. Comment on how many students raised their hands.

Ezra was careful as a scribe in writing the law of Moses (picture 2A.10). Because he studied, kept, practiced, and taught God's Word, he found favor in the eyes of the king. Ezra also found favor in the eyes of God. We don't need scribes to make copies anymore, but we need to be just as careful as Ezra when we read and talk about God's Word. If we are, more people will hear and know the truth of God's great love for us all!

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Big Idea: **God's Spirit guided people to collect the sixty-six inspired books into one Book.**

Deuteronomy 31:9-26; 2 Peter 1:16-21 [outline form]

Intro: *Moses and Peter said that God's Word is different from all other writing.*

Ask: *How can we be sure the Bible is truly God's Word?*

1. Moses knew the Law of the LORD was holy.

- *Moses commanded the priests to read the entire Law . . . Deuteronomy 31:10-11*
- *They were to read the entire Law to all of Israel . . . 31:12-13*
- *God directed Moses to write a song of remembrance . . . 31:19*
- *Moses commanded the Law be kept with the Ark of the Covenant. . . . 31:26*

2. Peter knew God's Word only came from God (picture 2A.11).

- *Peter did not follow invented stories . . . 2 Peter 1:16*
- *Peter was an eyewitness to Jesus' glory . . . 1:16-17*
- *Peter reinforced that the Old Testament is God's Word . . . 1:19*
- *Peter stressed that only God has written His Word through people . . . 1:20-21*

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3. Scholars used standards to collect the 66 books (picture 2A.12).

- *"Does this book include God's words?"*
- *"Does this book contradict any other books of the Bible?"*
- *"Does this book contain mistakes?"*
- *"Who wrote this book—does he follow God?"*

Conclusion: *God's Spirit guided people to collect the 66 books into one Book. You can be sure that every word you read in your Bible comes from God!*

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Big Idea: **God's Spirit guided people to collect the sixty-six inspired books into one Book.**

Deuteronomy 31:9-26; 2 Peter 1:16-21 [narrative form]

Intro: *Moses and Peter said that God's Word is different from all other writing.*

Ask: *How can we be sure the Bible is truly God's Word?*

Moses wrote the Law as God directed him and gave it to the priests and the leaders of Israel. He wanted everyone to hear and learn what it said. God told Moses that even though the people were given the books with God's words in them, they were going to disobey the words and get into a lot of trouble.

God told Moses to write a song that told about God and all the things He had done for Israel. When the people sang the song, they would remember the things God told them. So Moses wrote a song and taught it to Israel. Then Moses told the priests to place the book of the Law with a special box called an Ark so that it would not be destroyed. It stayed safe there for a long time.

Now let's talk about someone new (picture 2A.11)! Peter was a disciple of Jesus.

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How many of you know about Peter? He lived over a thousand years after Moses, but people still had the Scriptures that Moses and the prophets had written—they had been careful not to lose them. God told Peter to write some books, too. Peter wrote that only God could have written His Word, and that people should be careful not to follow made-up stories.

Just as God's Spirit inspired writers to write, He also directed people to collect the books written from Moses on up through Peter's day, and put them into one book. To do this, they used a measuring tool or standard.

The measuring tool scholars used was a set of questions (picture 2A.12). They asked, "Does this book include God's words?" and, "Does this book contradict or disagree with any other books of the Bible?" If it disagreed, they did not include it. They also asked, "Does this book have any mistakes in it?" If it had a mistake, they did not include it. Finally, they asked, "Who wrote this book?" If an author who loved and followed God wrote the book, then they included the book.

When they were finished, they had 66 books altogether—39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books. Today we have God's words in one Book to treasure!

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Level 2A—How We Got the Bible Lesson 7: Scholars Translated the Bible

Big Idea: **Bible scholars translate the Bible so more people can learn about God.**

Genesis 11:1-9 [outline form]

Intro: *God caused people to speak many different languages.*

Ask: *Why is Bible translation still important today?*

1. After the flood, people settled together on the plain of Shinar.
 - *Everyone in the world spoke one language Genesis 11:1*
 - *They planned to make bricks, a city, and a tower 11:3-4*
 - *They wanted to be famous (well-known) 11:4*
2. God saw what the people were doing. He acted to stop it.
 - *God saw the people were honoring themselves, not Him 11:6*
 - *God confused the language so they could not understand each other. . . . 11:7*
 - *They named the city Babel (picture 2A.13) 11:9*
 - *God scattered the people all over the earth 11:9*

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3. Having many languages means we need many Bibles (picture 2A.14).

- *Authors wrote God's Word originally in Hebrew and Greek.*
- *God wants everyone to know His Word.*
- *Scholars translated the Bible so more people could learn about God.*
- *Scholars still work on Bible translations today.*

Conclusion: *Because people speak so many languages, the best way for them to learn about God is to have the Bible translated in their languages. Pray for the people that translate the Bible into everybody's language.*

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Level 2A—How We Got the Bible Lesson 7: Scholars Translated the Bible

Big Idea: **Bible scholars translate the Bible so more people can learn about God.**

Genesis 11:1-9 [narrative form]

Intro: *God caused people to speak many different languages.*

Ask: *Why is Bible translation still important today?*

Buenos dias! *Does anyone know what I just said?* Give them time to answer. *That's right, I said "Hello" in Spanish. Spanish has different words than English. Do you know why there are so many different languages today?*

After the flood, Noah's children had children who had children. Soon, there were many people. They all spoke the same language. When one person said, "Howdy!" everyone understood him.

One day, someone said, "Let's build a tower in our city to show how great we are. Then, when we die, we'll be famous!" They should have wanted to make God well known, not themselves. The people on the plain of Shinar baked bricks and mixed mortar to hold the brick together. Then they all gathered in the middle of

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the city. They built the tower higher and higher and higher. The people of Shinar were so proud!

God heard the people. He saw the building. They disobeyed what God had asked them to do. God would not allow this to happen. He wanted them to move away from each other. So, one day, while they were building, He changed the words they spoke—their languages. Because they could not understand each other, everything became confusing. They had to stop building the tower (picture 2A.13).

The people called that city "Babel," which means, "confusing." Before long, people moved away and spread out over the earth just like God wanted them to do. Now people speak different languages all throughout the world today.

Many years later, God's Word was written in languages called Hebrew and Greek. Even though God created all these different ways of speaking, He still wanted everyone to know His Word. God chose people to translate His Word into many languages (picture 2A.14). Scholars translated the Bible into many different languages, but today many people still don't have a Bible in their own tongue. We need to pray for the people that translate the Bible into everybody's language.

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Big Idea: **Bible scholars have translated God's Word into many English versions.**

Deuteronomy 11:1-21 [outline form]

Intro: *The Bible is in English so that English-speaking people can know God.*

Ask: *Which English translation of the Bible do you like the best?*

1. God wants everyone to know His Word. He gave us specific instructions.

- *His Word should be in our hearts and minds Deuteronomy 11:18*
- *We should teach His Word to our children 11:19*
- *We should talk about His Word at all times 11:19*
- *His Word should be displayed for all to see (picture 2A.15) 11:20*

2. John Wycliffe and William Tyndale first published the Bible into English.

- *In the 14th century, the Bible was written and read in Latin.*
- *Few people understood the Latin language.*
- *John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English.*
- *Over a century later, William Tyndale also created an English translation (picture 2A.16)*

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3. Today, there are many English versions of the Bible.

- *The English language keeps changing through the years.*
- *Versions exist so people can choose the one they understand best.*
- *Different translations communicate the same truth—with slightly different words.*

Conclusion: *We live in a time where Bibles are plentiful and easy to read. Praise God for blessing us in this way!*

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Big Idea: **Bible scholars have translated God's Word into many English versions.**

Deuteronomy 11:1-21 [narrative form]

Intro: *The Bible is in English so that English-speaking people can know God.*

Ask: *Which English translation of the Bible do you like the best?*

A long time ago, people living in England did not have the Bible in English. Men had translated the Bible into a language called Latin, and only the most educated people understood it. But back when Moses gave people God's Law, it was in their own language—Hebrew. Moses wrote down all God's laws. Then Moses told the people to teach God's commandments to their children.

They were supposed to talk about God's Word when they stood up. They were supposed to talk about God's Word when they walked around. They were supposed to talk about God's Word when they sat down. God especially wanted His Word written down and put in places where all people would see it. They were even supposed to write it on the frames of the doors to their houses (picture 2A.15)!

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God wanted this from the very beginning, but a long time ago in England, only a very few people could see and understand the Bible. Two men who lived in England believed in God's command that everyone should read His Word. John Wycliffe was the first—he lived in the 14th century—over 600 years ago.

In churches throughout England, the Bible was being read in Latin. Very few people understood the Latin language, but they all knew English. John Wycliffe looked around and saw all the people who did not understand a word that was being read from the Bible! John Wycliffe went to work. After many years of writing and rewriting, he made an English translation of the Bible.

About 135 years later, a man named William Tyndale also wrote an English translation (picture 2A.16). Just like John Wycliffe, Tyndale saw there were still many people who had no English copies of a Bible. He believed if people could read the Bible for themselves, many more would come to know and obey Jesus.

Today, English-speaking people can have God's Word displayed where everyone can see it, just like God wanted! Because English has changed a lot in 600 years, we have many translations of the Bible, so everyone can choose a version they understand best. Different translations communicate the same truth—with slightly different words.

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Big Idea: **Since the Bible came from God, it has no mistakes.**

Psalm 19 [outline form]

Intro: *The Bible is completely perfect—it has no mistakes.*

Ask: *How can you trust the Bible to always help you?*

1. David wrote that creation reveals God to us (picture 2A.17).

- *The heavens declare God's glory* (picture 2A.18) Psalm 19:1
- *They constantly speak of the work of God's hands* 19:2
- *Everyone in all the earth can see and hear the heavens* 19:3-4

2. God's Word has no mistakes.

- *The Law of the LORD is perfect and trustworthy* 19:7
- *God's Word is right and radiant* 19:8
- *His ordinances are pure and righteous* 19:9

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3. The Bible is more precious than gold.

- *God's Word is sweeter than honey* 19:10
- *The Bible warns God's people* 19:11
- *Keeping God's laws earns His great reward* 19:11

Conclusion: *God doesn't make mistakes, and His Word has no mistakes also. How great it is to know the Bible will never steer us wrong or give us bad advice!*

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Big Idea: **Since the Bible came from God, it has no mistakes.**

Psalm 19 [narrative form]

Intro: *The Bible is completely perfect—it has no mistakes.*

Ask: *How can you trust the Bible to always help you?*

David wrote Psalm 19 and about seventy-two other Psalms (picture 2A.17). He was an amazing man—a brave shepherd who fought dangerous animals, a warrior who killed a giant, a king who did great things for his country, and a musician and poet who sang his prayers to God. He sounds like a perfect person. *Do you think David was perfect?* Encourage responses.

One thing that David did well was praise God. Read the entire Psalm 19 aloud to the students with great expression (picture 2A.18). In Psalm 19, David said that people should look at the sky. The heavens tell of the glory of God. Its beauty constantly speaks of how great God is. *What are some things that we see in the sky?* Encourage responses. David said that all these things glorify God. Since the sky can't speak, you can say, "God is great," every time you look up into it.

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David also said that the laws, precepts, testaments, and commandments of God are perfect. These are all words that mean God's rules. God inspired David's prayers, songs, and poems; they became part of His Word. God gives us the Book of Psalms and all the other books of the Bible to help us with every need, problem, and question. Now that is something to sing about!

At the end of Psalm 19, David said that knowing God's Word is better than gold and sweeter than honey. It warns, rewards, and keeps us doing what God wants us to do.

David said in Psalm 19 that God's Word is perfect. If you follow its advice, you will learn that the Bible is infallible and addresses every need in your life. Infallible is a big word that means the Bible is never wrong and has no mistakes. What the Bible says is true. The Bible came from God. God doesn't make mistakes, and so He makes sure the Bible has no mistakes either. Isn't it great to know the Bible can never steer us wrong or give us bad advice?

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Big Idea: **God's Word is true, and He is true to His Word.**

2 Kings 18-19 [outline form]

Intro: *King Hezekiah trusted God to keep His promises.*

Ask: *What does it mean for you, that the Bible is true?*

1. Hezekiah became king of Judah. He brought the nation back to God.

- *He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD* 2 Kings 18:3
- *He trusted in God* 18:5
- *God was with Hezekiah* 18:7

2. God promised to deliver His people.

- *The Assyrians threatened to attack Jerusalem (picture 2A.19)* 18:25
- *Isaiah told Hezekiah that God would protect them.* 19:6-7
- *The king of Assyria sent a letter telling Hezekiah not to trust God.* 19:10

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3. Hezekiah chose to trust God. God kept His promise.

- *Hezekiah prayed over the Assyrian king's letter (picture 2A.20)* 19:14
- *Hezekiah praised God for reigning over heaven and earth.* 19:15
- *God heard Hezekiah's prayer.* 19:34
- *The angel of the LORD destroyed the Assyrian army.* 19:35

Conclusion: *God's Word is true, and He is true to His Word. You can always trust God to keep His promises!*

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Big Idea: **God's Word is true, and He is true to His Word.**

2 Kings 18-19 [narrative form]

Intro: *King Hezekiah trusted God to keep His promises.*

Ask: *What does it mean for you, that the Bible is true?*

King Hezekiah was a great king. He was only twenty-five years old when he took over the rule of Judah from his father, King Ahaz. Even though Hezekiah was young, he was a great king. A king can boss everyone around, but Hezekiah didn't do that. Instead of being mean, he followed God. He cleaned up the Temple and destroyed the bronze statues and idols so people would worship only the one true God in Judah. God was pleased, especially since Hezekiah could have done anything with his power. He chose to rely on God's Word, because he knew it was true.

One time the Assyrian army came to invade Judah. The Assyrians were a big, strong army with well-trained soldiers. They were mean and had never lost a battle. They carried the finest bows and arrows, and their spears were razor-sharp. When the Assyrians came to Jerusalem, they sent Hezekiah a letter saying they were not afraid of God and they would destroy Judah (picture 2A.19).

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Instead of thinking about how afraid he was, Hezekiah prayed to God. He took the letter threatening him to the temple and spread it out before the LORD (picture 2A.20). He prayed: "You alone are God. You are the one who has made heaven and earth. Our enemies defeated other nations because they worship idols made of wood and stone. Those gods could not help them. Help us so everyone will know You are the only true God!" God promised Hezekiah that He would protect the land. Now, Hezekiah could believe the mean things that the enemy army was saying or he could believe God.

King Hezekiah believed God. Instead of paying attention to the enemy soldiers, he told his people, "Be strong...do not be afraid of the king of Assyria and the huge army with him, for a greater power is with us than with him. The LORD our God will help us and will fight our battles!"

That very night God sent an angel to destroy 185,000 Assyrian enemy soldiers—the whole army! That's a lot of people. Hooray for God—He is mightier than any army!

You see, it didn't matter how many weapons the Assyrian army had or how sharp their spears were, because the battle never even took place. As always, God's Word is true, and God is true to His Word. He keeps His promises.

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Big Idea: **God speaks through the Bible and makes it alive to people everywhere.**

Jeremiah 36 [outline form]

Intro: *King Jehoiakim tried to destroy God's Word, but failed.*

Ask: *What makes the Bible different from every other book in the world?*

1. God spoke to His prophet, Jeremiah. The people had turned away from God again.

- *God told Jeremiah to write His words Jeremiah 36:2*
- *God wanted His people to turn from their sins. 36:3*
- *God would forgive His people if they did. 36:3*
- *Jeremiah dictated God's words to Baruch (picture 2A.21) 36:4*

2. Baruch read God's words in the Temple in Jerusalem.

- *Baruch read God's words to the people. 36:10*
- *The officials listened to God's Word 36:15*
- *The officials warned Baruch and Jeremiah to hide. 36:19*

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3. King Jehoiakim tried to destroy God's Word.

- *Jehudi read the scroll to the king. 36:21*
- *King Jehoiakim cut the scroll and burned it as it was read (picture 2A.22). 36:23*
- *The officials warned the king, but he would not listen to them 36:25*
- *The king tried to arrest Baruch and Jeremiah, but God hid them 36:26*

4. God would not let His Word be destroyed.

- *God instructed Jeremiah to rewrite the His words. 36:28*
- *God told King Jehoiakim he would be punished. 36:31*
- *Jeremiah and Baruch created another scroll. 36:32*

Conclusion: *God's Word is alive and can change the people who read and apply it. Imagine how God will change your life through His Word!*

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Big Idea: **God speaks through the Bible and makes it alive to people everywhere.**

Jeremiah 36 [narrative form]

Intro: *King Jehoiakim tried to destroy God's Word, but failed.*

Ask: *What makes the Bible different from every other book in the world?*

The Bible is not just an ordinary book. It looks like other books. It feels like other books, but the Bible is alive because God breathes life into our minds so we can understand and apply His Word.

While a man named Jehoiakim was king, God wanted to warn His people that they were leading sinful lives. God wanted His people to be safe—their sins were going to bring about all sorts of terrible things.

God told Jeremiah, one of His prophets, “Get a scroll and write down all the words I have spoken to you. My words will warn the people before it is too late.” Jeremiah worked hard to do what the LORD had told him. Jeremiah spoke to Baruch, his secretary, who wrote down everything he said (picture 2A.21).

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When Jeremiah and Baruch were finished, Jeremiah told Baruch to read the scroll at the Temple. Baruch read God's message to the people, and they listened. Court officials came to hear Baruch read the scroll and asked where the words came from. Baruch explained that they came from God through Jeremiah, the prophet. Some of those who listened believed God's Word. They told their leader, King Jehoiakim, about the scroll.

“What?” bellowed the king. “I must hear it for myself! Jehudi, bring that scroll to me!” When Jehudi returned, he read part of it to the king. Suddenly, the king took a knife and cut off the words Jehudi had read. He tossed them into the fire. Each time Jehudi read a section, the king cut it off and burned it (picture 2A.22).

King Jehoiakim thought that burning God's Word would get rid of it, but he was wrong! God asked Jeremiah to write another scroll. Jeremiah did it without complaining—he knew that God's Word changes people because it is alive.

When Jeremiah and Baruch had finished the second scroll, it had all the words from the first scroll and a few more, and it was never destroyed again. You can read them in the Book of Jeremiah. God's Word cannot be destroyed by fire. Once it is read, God brings it to life within people.

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Big Idea: **God protects the Bible so that what it says will stay the same forever.**

Isaiah 6:1-13; 40:6-8 [outline form]

Intro: *God's Word remains the same throughout all time.*

Ask: *How can we say, "Yes, here I am," to God like Isaiah did?*

1. In 1947, a young shepherd boy (Jum' a Muhammed) discovered a cave.
 - *The cave was near the Dead Sea.*
 - *Jum' and his friends discovered pottery and scrolls in the cave (picture 2A.23).*
 - *Scientists discovered more caves and more scrolls.*
2. The Dead Sea Scrolls were an earthly treasure.
 - *Scientists and archeologists uncovered many ancient manuscripts.*
 - *They discovered portions of all the Old Testament books except Esther.*
 - *The words were nearly identical to modern versions of the Bible.*

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3. The book of Isaiah was a very exciting find.

- *God gave Isaiah a vision. Isaiah 6:1*
- *Isaiah knew he was a sinner unworthy of the vision 6:5*
- *An angel touch Isaiah's lips with coal, removing his sins (picture 2A.24) . . . 6:7*
- *God said "Whom shall I send?" and Isaiah replied "Send me!" 6:8*
- *Isaiah wrote that God's Word stands forever 40:6-8*

Conclusion: *God protects the Bible so that what it says will stay the same forever. Praise God for giving us His Word for all time!*

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Big Idea: **God protects the Bible so that what it says will stay the same forever.**

Isaiah 6:1-13; 40:6-8 [narrative form]

Intro: *God's Word remains the same throughout all time.*

Ask: *How can we say, "Yes, here I am," to God like Isaiah did?*

Today we are going to learn about an amazing discovery that was made not so long ago. In the spring of 1947, a young shepherd boy tended his flock of goats near the Dead Sea. This part of the world has many cliffs, and the boy, Jum' a Muhammad, followed his goats and found a small opening between two large rocks.

The next day, Jum' returned with two friends, hoping to find some long-lost treasure. One of the friends, named Wolf, was a slender boy who squeezed through the opening. Inside, Wolf noticed clay jars against the wall and broken pieces of pottery under his feet. Inside one of the jars, Wolf pulled out a smelly piece of tattered cloth—an old scroll (picture 2A.23)! Little did Wolf know that he had discovered an ancient library.

Over the next nine years, archaeologists and scientists discovered ten more caves filled with clay pots and ancient manuscripts. Many of the manuscripts

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were written in Hebrew and Aramaic—early copies of books of the Bible. In fact, portions of all of the Old Testament books, except the book of Esther, were contained in the caves.

After all of the piecing, translating, and studying was done, the writings were found to be very similar to our modern versions of the Bible, showing once again that God's Word is eternal and unchanging. The paper or leather that the Bible is written on will not last forever, but the Word itself will.

One exciting find was the scroll that contained the Book of Isaiah. This leather scroll was in good shape, and many were surprised to find how remarkably close it was to the Book of Isaiah today. Those who trusted God were not surprised—they knew God had made sure His Word would stay the same through time.

Isaiah was a devoted prophet of God. When he was a young man God gave Isaiah a glimpse of His eternal kingdom. In Isaiah's vision, an angel touched his lips with a hot coal. But the coal did not burn Isaiah. Instead, it did something wonderful. It removed Isaiah's sins (picture 2A.24). God asked Isaiah a question, "Whom shall I send?" with Isaiah answered, "Here I am. Send me!" For more than fifty years Isaiah faithfully served God and helped spread His messages.

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