

## **Teacher Notecards Level 6, Quarter A— Bringing the Bible to Life**

Use these Teacher Notecards as a reference when teaching  
*Explore Scripture*.\*

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

© 2008, **DiscipleLand**. Permission granted to reproduce for class use, only with purchase of the  
corresponding **DiscipleLand** Teacher Guide.

Big Idea: **God's Word is living, powerful, and relevant to today!**

## Inductive Bible Study

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **God's Word is living, powerful, and relevant to today!**

## John 16:13-15; Acts 17:10-12

Why is it important to study the Bible? Let's look at an example from Scripture. Have the children turn to Isaiah 55:8-11 and read it together. *What promise does God give about His Word?* By studying God's Word, we find out what God wants us to know. Then we can apply it so that God's Word can accomplish its purpose in our lives (picture 6A.1).

Choose a volunteer to read Acts 17:10-12 aloud. What does “noble character” mean? (Noble can mean impressive or high quality.) Paul had preached to both the Bereans and the Thessalonians. *How did the Bereans receive Paul's message? What resulted from their time spent studying the Scriptures?*

Talk about the contrast between the Jews in both towns. When we read God's Word, we can begin to think about it, and questions may come up. *What questions does this bring to your mind about the Thessalonians?* Encourage responses. When we look at only these three verses, we don't get the full picture Luke is present-

①



ing. By studying the verses around this passage, we will better understand the context and what is happening in Berea. Have volunteers read Acts 17:1-9. The Bereans eagerly listened to Paul and checked to see if Paul's message lined up with Scriptures. *How did the Thessalonians respond to the same message?* Now let's compare the results. In Berea where they searched the Scriptures for themselves, what happened? The Berean believers present a wonderful example to us. *What can you take from the Bereans' example and apply to your life?* Encourage responses (picture 6A.13).

We know God's Word is alive and it is good to read it for ourselves, but there are some things that seem difficult to understand. *Do you think God tries to confuse us with Scriptures?* Encourage responses. Let's find out who can help us understand God's Word. Ask a volunteer to read John 16:13-15 to the group. *How will the Holy Spirit help us understand Scriptures?* One of the Holy Spirit's jobs is to help you understand the Bible. *Why do you think people read the Bible without asking the Holy Spirit for help?*

How exciting it is to know that we have an “inside guide” to God's Word—the Holy Spirit! He desires to make God's truths known to us so we can apply them and accomplish His Will. What an awesome mission!

②

Big Idea: **To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.**

## Inductive Bible Study—Zoom!

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.**

## Jonah 1-2

Explain to your kids that today you are practicing the **Zoom!** step of inductive Bible study (pictures 6A.14-16). This will be the first of several times we will read through Jonah 1-2. Each time we study Jonah, we hope to grasp new concepts or truths that we didn't previously see. As we read, listen for the big picture of what is going on. I'll read the verses and you try to form the picture in your mind. After I finish, we'll see what big picture or big themes you caught (picture 6A.2).

*What are some of the themes that appear in Jonah 1? Encourage kids to share. What title did you give the passage? Let each child offer his or her title. Why do you think we should look for the big picture or theme for each chapter?*

*How would Jonah's story be different if one of these keys wasn't available to us? Which verse seemed to be a key verse in this chapter? Why? Let the children explain their choices.*

①



Now that we've had some practice, let's see if we can capture the big picture for Jonah 2.

*How do the two themes differ and how are they alike? Encourage responses. Why doesn't every Bible chapter have the same theme? Let several children answer.*

*How did Jonah respond to the situation of finding himself inside the fish? What would your reaction have been? Encourage the kids to respond. What could Jonah have blamed God for? Are there times when you blamed others for something that happened and you later realized that you were responsible? Give an opportunity for kids to answer, focusing on things directly related to each child's choice, action, words, or attitude.*

Jonah may have disobeyed God, but he chose to look honestly at the situation, and he poured out his heart to God in prayer. God responded to his prayer and gave Jonah another chance to do what was right. When we choose to take responsibility for our actions and pray for God's help, we will see amazing things happen!

②

Big Idea: **To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.**

## Inductive Bible Study—Look!

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.**

## Jonah 1-2

Last week we practiced the first step of Bible study—**Zoom!** We zoomed out and found several “keys” and themes in Jonah 1-2. Today we are going to explore the second step of inductive Bible study—**Look** (picture 6A.17)!

Now let's practice our observation skills by pretending to be onboard the ship with Jonah. Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Close your eyes and visualize the scene while I read. (Read Jonah 1.) After reading the passage, let the children open their eyes and discuss the following aspects:

Describe the storm. *How would you feel if you were caught in a storm like that (picture 6A.3)?*

Describe the fish. *How would you feel to be in that position for three days and nights? What might you be thinking? What might your prayer have sounded like?*

Describe the sailors. These were expert sailors who had sailed through storms

①



before. *Why were they so terrified?* They had a short time of contact with Jonah, yet their lives changed dramatically. *Why?*

Perspective is important, but it doesn't come automatically. You need to practice your observation skills and your ability to see things from another person's point of view. If we see things through only our own eyes, our picture of the situation is pretty small. When we stop to consider other perspectives, the picture improves and we understand more about the situation.

Let's take one more look at Jonah, but this time we'll also look through the eyes of the sailors and God. First, let's consider what Jonah saw, smelled, heard, tasted, or touched. Encourage kids to call out their thoughts related to Jonah's perspective. Now let's consider the sailors and what they saw, smelled, heard, tasted, or touched. Let children share. When we consider God's perspective, we need to read Romans 11:34. Ask a volunteer to read the verse. While we can't know God's thoughts about Jonah, we see His reaction to Jonah's prayer. *What does this tell us about God's view of Jonah?*

②

Big Idea: **To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.**

## Inductive Bible Study—Think!

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.**

## Jonah 1-2

Explain to your kids that today you are practicing the **Think!** step of inductive Bible study (picture 6A.19).

Today we will learn how to ask questions that help us uncover Biblical truths. We want to ask questions that will lead us to ideas or insights that casual Bible readers miss. Some questions we may not be able to answer—that is fine. Our goal is to think about Scripture and to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth (picture 6A.4).

As we read, listen and think about what questions come to mind. Write down your questions, and afterwards we'll see if we can find answers in our Bibles.

When you're finished reading, ask kids, *What is your best “who” question?* Encourage volunteers to share. After each question, see if anyone can answer it. Explain that complete answers may not be available for some questions. Other questions may require more studying you have time for now. Tell the kids that they will learn

①



to use Bible reference books in a few weeks (lesson 8). Those books will provide answers to many of their questions. Also remind students to turn to the Holy Spirit for help and guidance.

- *What is your best “what” question?* Encourage responses.
- *What is your best “when” question?*
- *What is your best “where” question?*
- *What is your best “why” question?*
- *What is your best “how” question?*

Repeat this process using Jonah 2.

Deciding whether words or phrases are literal or figurative will help answer certain questions.

As you read the Bible and review Jonah 1-2, write down any questions that you think would benefit your understanding. If you have Bible reference tools at home, use them to look up the answers or gain insight. Let's keep growing in our knowledge of God's Word—it will bring us closer to the Author of those words and truths.

②

Big Idea: **To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.**

## Inductive Bible Study—Live!

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.**

## Jonah 1-2

Explain to your kids that today you are practicing the **Live!** step of inductive Bible study (pictures 6A.22-23).

Read Jonah 1-2 as kids follow along silently. Use as much expression as possible and pause at the punctuation (picture 6A.5).

We've squeezed many facts and truths about Jonah into our heads. Now we need those truths to take a journey of about ten to twelve inches—to find a home in our hearts. Let's turn to Ezekiel 11:19-20 to discover how important the heart is to God. If you have several translations available, read Ezekiel 11:19-20 in each translation. A human heart is divided into four chambers. *What kind of language is being used when God says He will give an “undivided heart?”* (It is figurative.) Remind students that this was one of the items learned previously in the Think! Bible study step. *What do you think “undivided heart” symbolizes?* (It symbolizes a heart that remains obedient to God.)

①



*What opposites are found in verse 19?* (Heart of stone and heart of flesh.) Remind children that looking for opposites is part of the Look! step. *Why did the Israelites have a heart of stone?* Encourage responses. *Why would God want to give them a heart of flesh?* Let children share their answers. *What application can you make of this timeless principle to your own life?* Give each child an opportunity to suggest a life application. Prompt them with examples if necessary.

Praise God that Jonah 1-2 is so rich in life-changing truths! Each time we apply a Biblical principle to our lives, God's power transforms us to the likeness of Christ. Let's end by praising God for the wonderful transformations that He has started and that will continue to take place in our lives. Lead the children in a time of prayer.

②



Big Idea: **To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.**

## Inductive Bible Study—Zoom!

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.**

## Jonah 3-4

Today we will explore Jonah 3-4. We will follow the same pattern that we learned as we studied Jonah 1-2 (picture 6A.14). In this lesson, we will focus on the **Zoom!** step of inductive Bible study. What do you remember about this step? (Zoom out to get a big picture and to find keys that help determine the chapter theme (pictures 6A.15-16).)

As we read chapter 3, let's zoom out and catch the big idea of the chapter (picture 6A.6). Ask for volunteers to read Jonah 3. *What might have motivated Jonah to obey God this second time?* Encourage responses. *Because Jonah obeyed God, what happened to the Ninevites?* (They repented.) *Have you ever obeyed even though you didn't really want to?* Allow children to share their experiences.

*What overall theme appears in Jonah 3?* Encourage kids to share answers with the class. Write a catchy title for this chapter that reflects the big idea. Let children take a minute to write a title and then tell the class.

①



Now that we've had some practice, let's go to chapter 4 of Jonah. Read Jonah 4 to the class and let them choose a title for this chapter. Discuss the titles they chose. *We've read through all four chapters of Jonah. What theme or big idea fits the entire book?* Invite the children to write their ideas on the chart and then share them with the class.

As time allows, you may want to ask several of the following questions:

- *How did Jonah's reaction to the Ninevites' repentance show that his efforts were not based on wanting them to repent?*
- *How did Jonah respond to the situation of finding himself in the hot sun without shade? What might your reaction have been?*
- *What miracles had Jonah already seen or experienced?*
- *Why do you think Jonah saw these miracles, but quickly turned to despair?*
- *What evidence shows that Jonah's obedience to God had more to do with his personal comfort than with his concern for the souls of the Ninevites?*

Jonah wasn't perfect. But these chapters show that God uses our obedience, even when our whole heart isn't in it!

②

Big Idea: **To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.**

## Inductive Bible Study—Look!

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.**

## Jonah 3-4

Explain to your kids that today you are practicing the **Look!** step of inductive Bible study (pictures 6A.17-18).

When we open God's Word, we want to find truths that will help us live to please the Lord. Let's begin by asking God's Spirit to guide us and lead us to what God wants us to know. Ask for volunteers to pray.

Last time we zoomed out to discover the chapter themes and key people, places, and events of Jonah 3-4. Now let's practice our observation skills by imagining what it was like to be in Nineveh while Jonah preached. Close your eyes and visualize the scene while I read.

After reading Jonah 3, let the children open their eyes and discuss the following aspects:

Describe the mood in Nineveh when Jonah arrived (picture 6A.7). *What city does*

①



*this remind you of?*

Describe the atmosphere in the city after Jonah preached. *Have you ever witnessed anything like that? If someone repented in modern times, what signs of repentance might he or she show?*

Now it's time to look more closely at Jonah 3. As you read silently, see if you can observe more relationships between words and phrases. Mark them with the corresponding color or symbol in your Bible. You will have five minutes to complete this. Let's see who can come up with the most observations! On your mark; get set; go! Find the key words, repetitions, contrasts, comparisons, verb tense changes, cause and effect, and the climax. At the end of five minutes, encourage the kids to share what they discovered.

God used Jonah's obedience to bring the people of Nineveh to repentance. But Jonah wasn't happy that God cancelled His plans to destroy the city. Jonah's response shows selfishness and prejudice. *Why do you think Jonah was so disappointed that the Ninevites repented?*

②



Big Idea: **To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.**

## Inductive Bible Study—Think!

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.**

## Jonah 3-4

Explain that today you are practicing the **Think!** step of inductive Bible study (pictures 6A.19-20). Let's think about Jonah and the Ninevites. Challenge your minds to bombard the passage with penetrating questions. Later on we'll search for answers to these questions. As we read through Jonah 3, write down any questions that may help us better understand Jonah and what God wants us to learn (picture 6A.8).

Ask for volunteers to read and establish a reading order among them. Instruct the first reader to read one verse. Let anyone call out a question about the verse. When there are no additional questions, have the second reader read. Continue using this pattern to accumulate questions for Jonah 3.

Now that we have a list of questions, let's search for some answers. Examining Scripture can seem like a physical examination at a doctor's office. Think about

①



your last doctor's visit. When the doctor entered the room, he or she may have looked for “external evidence.” *Name examples of “external evidence.”* (Flushed cheeks, rash, fever, cuts or bruises, etc.) After looking for anything visible on the outside, the doctor would check for “internal evidence.” *What are examples of “internal evidence?”* (Looking into the throat or inner ear, listening to your heart or lungs, etc.) The doctor would piece together information from both kinds of evidence to make a diagnosis.

We can also diagnose the information presented to us in the Bible. The “internal evidence” comes direct from the Bible passage. The “external evidence” comes from outside sources available in books written by people who have spent years researching history, archaeology, and culture. Let's use some of these tools to dig for evidence to help us better understand Jonah 3 (picture 6A.21).

Distribute the Bible resource tools among the children. Show kids how to check their Bibles to see if they have cross-references and study notes. Work cooperatively in small groups of three to four children. Repeat the procedure with Jonah 4.

Whenever we study God's Word and gain insights, we have made good use of our time, and the knowledge draws us closer in our relationship with God.

②

Big Idea: **To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.**

### ***Inductive Bible Study—Live!***

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.**

### ***Jonah 3-4***

Explain to your kids that today you are practicing the **Live!** step of inductive Bible study (pictures 6A.22-23).

Today we will look for life applications from Jonah 3-4. Application is easier when we grasp a bigger picture of God's plan and how we can be a part of that plan. Jonah needed a bigger picture. He only saw God's love and grace for Israel. Jonah didn't understand that God's heart is for all people of all tribes and languages. It was time for Jonah to have heart surgery, and God used a vine for the surgery.

Read Jonah 3 expressively as kids follow along in their Bibles. Pause occasionally to give students time to write their timeless truths. When you're finished, invite different children to share one timeless truth that they gleaned from the passage.

①



Repeat the procedure with Jonah 4 (picture 6A.9). Alternatively, you might want to let the kids read chapter 4 for themselves and locate timeless principles entirely on their own. Or, have students form pairs and work together.

Jonah's time inside the fish helped him center his life on what was important—obeying God. When given a second chance, Jonah obeyed God and delivered God's message to the Ninevites. In chapter 4 Jonah lost focus again on what was important to God. We don't want to err where Jonah erred. Let's make sure we remember to focus on showing love to people. Let's apply that principle to each area of our lives.

②

Big Idea: **Bravely accept the consequences of your actions.**

## Inductive Bible Study—Zoom! & Look!

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **Bravely accept the consequences of your actions.**

## Philemon

Today we begin looking at the New Testament Book of Philemon. As we read through the chapter, we will review the inductive Bible study steps that we used to study the Book of Jonah. What are the four steps? (Zoom!, Look!, Think!, Live!) Explain to your kids that today you are practicing the **Zoom!** and **Look!** steps (picture 6A.14).

Let's **Zoom!** The first thing is to figure out a theme and the key people, places, and events of Philemon. Ask for volunteers and divide the verses among them.

*Did Paul have an obligation or duty to write it?* (No.) *Why did Paul take time to write the letter to Philemon?* (He wrote because he wanted the best for both Onesimus and Philemon, hoping to help them.) *How much courage did it take for Onesimus to travel back to his master and face the consequences of what he had done* (picture 6A.10)? Encourage responses.

①



Now, let's **Look!** It's time to observe Philemon more closely. As you read the book of Philemon silently, observe relationships between words and phrases. Mark them with the corresponding color or symbol in your Bible. You will have five minutes to complete this. Let's see who can come up with the most observations! On your mark; get set; go! At the end of five minutes, encourage kids to share what they discovered.

Paul wrote very well. You can read other examples of his inspired letters in the New Testament books of Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, as well as Philemon. We can thank God for giving Paul the ability to clearly communicate God's love and truths. God also carefully preserved Paul's letters so that we can learn from them. Ask for volunteers to thank God for Paul's letters—that they speak to us today and teach us His timeless truths.

②

Big Idea: **Genuinely forgive fellow Christians who offend you.**

## Inductive Bible Study—Think! & Live!

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **Genuinely forgive fellow Christians who offend you.**

## Philemon

Explain that today you are practicing the **Think!** and **Live!** steps of inductive Bible study on the Book of Philemon (picture 6A.14).

Last time we found a theme for Philemon and noticed how carefully Paul used his words when writing. *What do you remember about the book of Philemon* (picture 6A.11)? Give kids an opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

Paul's letter to Philemon shows the transformation Jesus can make in a person, namely Onesimus, the runaway slave. As we take another look at this passage, watch for clues related to Onesimus' changed life. Have kids turn to Philemon in their Bibles. Make sure the translations are the same. Children may need to look on with another person's Bible. Ask the girls to read the first verse and then ask the boys to read the next verse.

Let's **Think!** *What does the Bible say about how to treat slaves?* Let students share what they learned from their Bible research. *If you were Philemon, how would you*

①



*treat your slaves?* Give opportunities for kids to answer.

Now let's **Live!** Review ways to identify truths or principles. Explain that if a truth relates only to Philemon's time or culture, then you will need to decide how that principle relates to your time and culture. This makes it a “timeless truth.” Challenge the kids to fill the page with more truths as they read Philemon.

When Onesimus placed his faith in Jesus Christ, God forgave all his sins. Just as God forgave Onesimus' sins, He is willing to forgive your sins, too. Just as God transformed Onesimus, He wants to change every person.

*What do you think Onesimus thought or felt about his owner when he ran away?* Encourage responses. *How do you think Onesimus' attitude changed about his owner after he became a Christian?* Encourage responses. *What changes do you detect in Onesimus? When Onesimus returns, what ways might Philemon see those life changes?*

②

Big Idea: **Choose the righteous path that leads to life.**

## Inductive Bible Study

1. **Zoom!**—To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture.
  - Quickly read the entire book to overview the contents
  - Create a simple chart that shows the book's structure, key people, places, and events
  - Identify the overall theme or “big idea” of the book
2. **Look!**—To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says.
  - Imagine yourself at the scene of the action. Read the passage as if you've never seen it before
  - Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs
  - Mark these items in your Bible: key words, repetition, contrast, comparison, purpose, verb tense, cause/effect, and climax

①



3. **Think!**—To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means.
  - Ask and answer questions (*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*)
  - Re-create the original setting of the book. Understand what the passage meant to the first readers. Use Bible resource tools as needed
  - Form timeless truths that bridge “there” to “here” and “then” to “now.”
4. **Live!**—To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to life.
  - Explore ways to apply timeless truths to different areas of life
  - Ask God to help you decide how to act on each truth
  - Just do it—now!

②

Big Idea: **Choose the righteous path that leads to life.**

## Psalms 1

Today we'll practice all four inductive Bible study steps. We will **Zoom!**, **Look!**, **Think!**, and **Live!** to bring Psalm 1 to life (picture 6A.14)!

Let's **Zoom!** To see what God is doing, focus on the big picture. Overview the passage. Have kids find the key people, places, and events of Psalm 1 (picture 6A.12).

Now let's **Look!** To observe God's wonders, examine what the Bible says. Explore every word. As you read Psalm 1 silently, observe relationships between words and phrases. You will have five minutes to complete this. Let's see who can come up with the most observations! On your mark; get set; go! After five minutes, encourage kids to share what they discovered.

Now let's **Think!** To understand timeless truths, grasp what the passage really means. Seek the author's meaning. It is time to bombard Psalm 1 with questions. What are the six main questions we ask? (Who, what, when, where, why, and how.)

①



We have Bible reference books available to help you answer all your questions. After about ten minutes, encourage kids to share what they discovered.

Now let's **Live!** To experience God's blessing, apply Bible truths to your life. Bring the Bible to life! After about ten minutes, encourage kids to share what they discovered.

Psalm 1 shows two paths and details what happens to people who choose each path. By studying the Bible, we use the compass of God's Word to learn to stay on the path of the righteous and grow closer to God.

We have practiced the inductive Bible study steps using which books? (Jonah, Philemon, Psalm 1) What does Psalm 1:2 say about the person whom God blesses? (He or she meditates on God's Word day and night.) Studying the Bible is a life-long adventure. During this quarter we have learned a process that works with every book of the Bible (picture 6A.24). If you stay in this Book (hold a Bible above your head) then you will stay on God's path.

②