



GOALS

- For students to learn powerful characteristics of God's Word.
- For students to learn the promises that come with loving and obeying the Word of God.

MATERIALS: Group

- Variety of colored pencils
- Whiteboard and markers
- A 3'-4' beach ball (you can get these at Walmart or online)
- A Sharpie marker (the bigger the better; Magnum size preferred)
- Optional: prizes for your Bible trivia exercise

MATERIALS: Each Student

- Student journal pages
- Scripture sheet, Psalm 119
- A Bible
- A pen

SESSION INTRO

Prayer

God says in Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Before beginning the session, ask the group to simply "be still" before the Lord...to listen for His quiet voice...and to focus their thoughts on Him. Ask for His leading as the group studies and shares.

Open

Open your session with a quick pop quiz about the Bible. Students can only be expected to know the first question. The rest are wild guesses. Ask students to write their answers on their journal pages. Reward the person who guesses closest to the correct answer.

How many books are in the Bible?

66 (OT: 39; NT: 27)

Wild guess: How many chapters are in the Bible?

1,189 (KJV)

Wild guess: How many verses are in the Bible?

31,102 (KJV)

Wild guess: How many words are in the Bible?

783, 137 (KJV)

Wild guess: How many letters are in the Bible?

3,116,480 (KJV)

After your trivia time, share the following in your own words:

The Word of God is a gift. Inside God's book are the keys to His promises. Have you ever tried to play a new game without first reading the instructions? It's nearly impossible. All the pieces, without instructions, create chaos. The same is true with life. Life is an intricate game, with many different working parts. The key to all these parts exists inside the Word of God. God doesn't intend for us to wander through life not knowing fully which way we are going. He has plans for us. These plans are hidden in His Word.

Transition into your study time with a story of how the Word of God has made a difference in your life, or share in general the importance of God's Word to you personally.

DIGGING IN

Draw students' attention to their Scripture sheet for Psalm 119 and this session's journal page. Hand out two to three colored pencils or markers per person. Mention that Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, with 176 verses, and nearly every verse is about the Word of God. Explain, though, that they will be covering only 29 verses in this session.

Have the group brainstorm a symbol to use when marking synonyms for the Word of God, such as an open book or two stone tablets. You may need to make your students familiar with a few of the synonyms for the Bible, such as "statues," "law" and "precepts." They will also want to mark pronouns like "it" and "them."

After a few minutes, call for your group's attention. This is where the beach ball and Sharpie comes into play. Have your group form a circle and throw the ball into the middle of the circle. Explain that the beach ball represents the rainbow, which represents God's promises. Share that you're going to decorate the beach ball with promises about God's Word.

Explain the following steps:

1. **Look at the words you marked regarding God's Word. Circle three things that God's Word can do to us and for us, in other words: What does God's Word promise to do? Then write these in the space provided on your journal page.**
2. **Each of you are going to share your favorite promise of the three you chose and write it on the beach ball. If someone shares your top choice before you get a chance, share you second or third choice. If someone shares a promise you didn't choose, add that to your list on your journal page.**

Below is a list of promises that might be represented on your beach ball.

Promises of God's Word

We're blessed if we walk according to it (v. 1)

We're blessed if we keep His statutes (v. 2)

If we meditate on it, we'll be wiser than our teachers (v. 99)

If we obey it, we'll have more understanding than our elders (v. 100)

If we love it, we'll have great peace (v. 165)

If we love it, nothing will make us stumble (v. 165)

After students have had a chance to share and write on the beach ball, talk about the promises and the psalm in general.

How would you describe the relationship the writer of the psalm has with the Word of God?

Is the Word of God boring to Him? Does he feel like it's a chore to read his Bible? Why do you think He likes it so much?

What does this ball of promises tell us about the Word of God?

Just in case your students didn't pick up on this fact, be sure to ask them how they can become wiser than their enemies and have more insight and understanding than their elders and teachers.

After discussing the questions, ask your students to rate themselves on a scale for the three questions below, which are also printed on their journal pages.

Does your life reflect obedience to God's Word?

Would you label yourself as someone who trusts the Bible?

Would you describe yourself as someone who knows the Bible?

CROSS-CHECKING

Invite your students to grab their Bibles and journal pages and move to a place of solitude in the room. Ask them to look up the following verses (these are printed on their journal pages) and jot down thoughts that God brings to mind concerning the Bible and its role in their lives.

Matthew 13:23

Luke 6:47-49

Hebrews 4:12

1 Peter 1:23-25

After a few minutes, gather your students back together. Then ask them to answer the following questions:

What passage stuck out the most to you?

Why do you think this passage grabbed your attention?

What do you think God might be saying to you through this passage?

TAKING IT INWARD

Pointing out your promise-laden beach ball, have the group brainstorm on the following exercises:

Complete this sentence:

Since God's Word is full of promises for me, I will ...

Encourage students to create ideas that engage them in God's Word, such as:

- *Since they've already gotten a jump start in the book of Psalms maybe they will want to continue reading one psalm every morning.*
- *Read a chapter a week from any book of the Bible and post questions and comments to each other through social media.*
- *Direct your students to InWord's teen devos at InWord.org.*

How can we use this beach ball as a reminder of the importance of God's Word?

Possible ideas:

- *Take a group photo and use it on all your social media outlets.*
- *Have students take individual "selfies" with the beach ball for their personal media use.*

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

Before you close your time together and end your last lesson in the One on One with God study, ask your students to share one thing they have learned these past six weeks that has changed the way they know God.

Be sure to encourage your students to keep going after these Truths and to not settle back into old habits.

Close your session in prayer, asking specifically for God to help your students apply what He has shown them regarding the place of His Word in their lives.

Source for Wild Guess answers: http://amazingbibletimeline.com/bible_questions/q10_bible_facts_statistics/ Last accessed July 9, 2015.