

SAMPLE LESSON

How To Read the Bible

***Samples are taken from Lesson 3,
Ways To Read the Bible***

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OBJECT LESSON: READ FAST

This object lesson requires three teachers.

Teacher 1: Walk up to the stage with an envelope in your hand. Inside the envelope should be a letter that you will unfold.

Have you all ever received a letter in the mail? *(Allow the children to answer.)* You have? I love getting mail! I love when a friend mails me a letter to tell me something about themselves and what they have been up to. I just got this letter in the mail from my friend! Would you like me to read you what it says?

Start "reading" the letter out loud but stop after two to three sentences. Fold the letter up and put it back in the envelope.

Well, that's it for today! I'll read a couple more sentences tomorrow... and then the day after tomorrow, I'll read a few more sentences... and then in three more days, I'll read a bit more.

Teacher 2: Walk to the stage with the "Poems and Prayers" book and begin doing the same thing Teacher 1 did. Open the book and read a couple lines of a poem, then switch and read a couple lines of a prayer. For example, "Dear Father, I need to talk some things over with you..." then stop. Mention again that you will read some more of those in the following days and walk off the stage.

Teacher 3: Walk to the stage with the "Stories" book, Open the book and read something like, "In a far away land, there lived a wonderful king..." then stop. Again, mention you'll read more later.

Teacher 1: Come back up to the stage.

Did you see how all of us just read only a couple sentences of our letter, poems, prayers, and stories? It was hard to know what the people who wrote it were saying, right? All of those letters, poems, prayers, and stories are supposed to be read all the way through, aren't they? Each of these are different types of writings we learned about last week, and all of those types of writings are in the Bible.



Many people read the Bible like those teachers did. They only read a little bit at once and then come back the next day and read a little more. Now I'm not saying to try and read the entire Bible at one time, but Psalms (poetry and prayers) and letters should be read all at once. It's the same with stories. The story of David and Goliath is in the book of 1 Samuel. You probably won't read all of 1 Samuel at one time, but the story of David and Goliath is in chapter 17. It's not even two pages long!

Remember the first part of our song, **read a lot really fast?** When you read a lot really fast, you'll notice that some things will stick out to you that you can tell are important. When you read a whole letter, poem, prayer, or story of the Bible, you will be able to see what those who wrote them were really saying.

In order to remember the things that stick out to me as I **read a lot really fast**, I like to make some underline marks in my Bible. This helps me keep track of the verses and words that stood out to me when I **read a lot really fast**. Look here... see? (*Show them underlined or highlighted places in your personal Bible.*) The reason I do this is so I can go back later and read those verses really slow.

Now that you've learned why it's important to **read a lot really fast**, we are going to see why it's important to **read a little really slow** sometimes too. First, though, I need to make sure you remember our song. Let me hear you sing it again!

Sing the song with the children before going on to the object lesson.

ACTIVITY: PRAY IT!

There's one last part from our song. Who remembers our song? Let's sing it again!

**What I learned in Bible class,
Is to read a lot really fast!
Then read a little really slow,
And make a song up as I go.
Re-tell the stories, part by part,
And pray to get it in my heart.**

Sing the song with the children. Do it several times if you need to.



Right! So we've already read it fast and read it slow. We've also learned how to turn verses into songs, and we just learned how to re-tell stories part-by-part! The last way we are going to learn how to read the Bible is to **pray to get it in our hearts.**

Remember our verse from the beginning? "I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You." This is from Psalm 119:11.

Many people read with their mind, but they don't get the Word of God into their hearts. We have learned all these ways to read the Bible, but as you do, you want to take the things God showed you and pray them back to Him.

With your leader, you are going to pick one key point from the story you just read. You are going to pick one child in your group to pray that everyone would experience something from the Bible story. For example, Daniel trusted God to protect him. One of you could pray that everyone in your group would trust God like Daniel did and that you would have the courage that Daniel had. Pray that God will take what you learned from the story and make it a part of who you are.

Once each group has had time to pray together, wrap up the lesson by having the children sing the main song several more times together as a large group.



ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS LESSON:

- ***Introduction***
- ***Memory Verse***
- ***Object Lesson: Read Slow***
- ***Transition to Small Groups***
- ***Activity: Contemplation***
- ***Activity: Sing the Bible***
- ***Activity: Tell the Story***
- ***Activation***