



Sneak-a-Peek

Ezra Reads God's Word

BIG IDEA: It's true, it's true! The Bible is true!

BIBLE BASIS: Nehemiah 8

KEY VERSE: "All your words are true." Psalm 119:160

★ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

BOOKMARK

Supplies: Bookmark template (1 per child), markers or crayons

Directions: Give each child a bookmark template. The bookmark will have the memory verse on it: "All God's words are true." Encourage the children to color their bookmark. Explain to them how the bookmark can be placed in their Bible and used to remember where they stopped reading.

Say: The Bible is the best book ever written. That's because it's filled with God's words, and ALL of God's words are true. **It's true, it's true! The Bible is true!** Everything in the Bible really happened.

Question: Do you have a Bible at home? When do you read it? Where do you read it?

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

BIBLE BROAD JUMP (Application Activity)

Supplies: Roll of painters tape (1)

Preparation: Place five to six short lines of tape on the floor like rungs on a ladder. There should be about 8 inches between each “rung.”

Directions: Have the children line up at the first line of tape. Beginning from a standing position, challenge the children to jump as far as they can. (This is also known as the standing broad jump.) Count how many lines each child was able to jump across and have them repeat the Bible verse below that number of times. You can play additional rounds by having the children jump backwards, jump sideways, or jump like a frog.

Bible Verse: “All God’s words are true.”

Say: The words in the Bible were written down by people, but God told them what to say. The Bible is filled with God’s words, and all God’s words are true. **It’s true, it’s true! The Bible is true!** Everything in the Bible really happened.

Question: Why do you think it’s so important to read the Bible?

SCRIPTURE PICTURE

Supplies: white board (1 per group), dry erase marker (1 per group)

Directions: The following activity is just like Bible Pictionary. Choose a child to draw first. Using the list below, whisper to them what to draw. As the child draws the picture, encourage the other children to guess what it is. Help only if necessary. When a child has guessed correctly, read the Bible story description that goes with the picture, then ask the group if that story is true or not true. After they answer true, have the whole group say, “**It’s true, it’s true! The Bible is true!**” Repeat for each of the pictures listed.

Story Pictures:

- **Snake:** A sneaky snake told Adam and Eve to disobey God and eat the special fruit.
- **Boat:** God told Noah to build a big, big boat and to put two of every animal on it.
- **Lion:** God saved Daniel by shutting closed the mouths of the lions.
- **Whale:** God protected Jonah while he sat in the belly of a whale for three days.
- **Baby:** Baby Jesus was born and laid in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem.
- **Cross:** Jesus died on a cross, but He came back to life three days later.

Say: Some books are not true—they have stories that are made up. But not the Bible! The Bible is filled with God’s words, and ALL God’s words are true. Everything in the Bible really happened. **It’s true, it’s true! The Bible is true!**

Question: Do you have a favorite story from the Bible? What is it? Why do you like it?



WADDLE WALK (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Hula hoop (1 per group), inflated balloon (1 per group)

Today's Bible verse:

"All (fan hands outward with palms up) your words (with palms still facing up, put hands together like you're holding a book) are true (two thumbs up)." Psalm 119:160 (extend hands like you're holding a book).

Directions: Practice the verse together until the children can remember it. When ready, place a hula hoop on the floor. Choose a child to place the inflated balloon between their knees and walk around the hula hoop while saying the Bible verse. They must say the entire verse without dropping the balloon or touching it with their hands. Continue until every child has had a turn. Play additional rounds by challenging the children to walk backwards, hop on two feet, or skip.

THROW BACK (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Stuffed animal (1 per group)

Directions: Have the children stand in a cluster while you stand about 6 feet away with your back to the group. Toss the stuffed animal over your shoulder toward the group of children. Ask the child who catches it, "What happened first in today's Bible story?" Only allow them to tell a small part of the story. Allow the other children to help answer if needed. Next, have the child who caught the stuffed animal toss it over their shoulder so another child can catch it. Ask the next child to catch the animal, "What happened next in the story?" Repeat this until the whole story has been told.

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Question: Why do you think the people listened so carefully when Ezra read the Bible to them?

Question: Is it easy or hard for you to listen carefully when the Bible is being read to you? Why?

Say: All of the stories in the Bible are true—they really happened. **It's true, it's true! The Bible is true!** Let's say a prayer to God and thank Him for giving us the Bible. We can say "thanks" for each of the stories we drew.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by thanking God for all of the true stories in the Bible.