



***A Study for Children
About the Bible***

by Sally Michael

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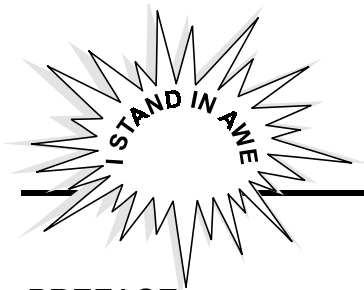


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A MESSAGE FROM GOD

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 19:1-3

KEY VERSE (choose one of the following):

Romans 15:4a—For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us...

Romans 15:4—For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

KEY THEMES:

- The Bible is a message from God
- God wants to tell us about Himself; He wants to be known

VISUALS/MATERIALS:

Bible; nametags (see Resource Packet-Lesson 1A); message visuals (i.e. letter, postcard, note, message written on a white board—see lesson for explanation); nature pictures (see Resource Packet-Lesson 1B-F); optional: additional pictures of nature; optional: Bible story pictures; optional: nature objects (leaves, flowers, pine needles, etc.) or nature pictures (for collage activity)

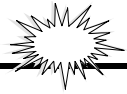
PREPARATION:

Study the scripture passages carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to make them real in your own heart. Be open to what God may be teaching you in this lesson. Study the lesson well. Pray for the children in your class.

Copy the nametags onto card stock. Choose white paper if you want the children to color their nametags. Choose different colors if you will be making the nametags. Nametags should be laminated but you may want to allow the children to color them first. Nametags can be fastened to the child's shirt in a variety of ways:

- Punch a hole in the top of the nametag and attach a ribbon. The child can wear the nametag like a necklace.
- Punch a hole in the top of the nametag and pin the nametag to the shirt.
- Staple a short piece of ribbon to the top of the nametag. (If the ribbon is likely to fray, double the ribbon and staple the two ends to the nametag.) Pin the ribbon to the shirt.

Choose the activities you will use. Some activities may need slight adaptation to fit your situation. Make the appropriate preparations.



INTRODUCTION

Tell the children that you would like to play a game. You will think of a person and then tell the children about the person. Then the children can try to guess who the person is that you are describing. For example:

This person is very good. He never does anything wrong.

He is also very smart. He knows everything.

He is a very fair and He is always right. He never makes a mistake.

He is strong. Stronger than anyone. He can do anything; nothing is too hard for Him.

He never, ever lies. Everything He says is true.

This person is everywhere all the time, so you can never hide from Him.

This person owns everything in the whole world! The reason that everything belongs to Him is that He made everything.

This person is greater than anyone else is. No one is better, stronger, or smarter than He is. He is in control of everything and everyone.

Even though the children may guess the identity of the “mystery person” quickly, continue giving clues until you have given a good description of God. You may even want to identify other people and ask if they could be the mystery person and then note why they cannot:

- *Could I be this person? No, I don't know everything.*
- *Could child in the class be this person? No, he has made mistakes.*
- *Could the president of the U.S. be this person? No, there are things he can't do.*



LESSON

After you have established that the “mystery person” is God, tell the children that this most wonderful Person has sent them a message.

Ask the children if they know what a message is. Explain that when someone wants you to know something, they tell you what they want you to know. They can tell you by talking to you or they can tell you by writing you a note. Have the children give some examples of messages. (If they have trouble, you may need to help them.) For example:

Your mother tells you, “It is time to get dressed. Please put your clothes on.”

Message on answering machine

A letter from grandma and grandpa

A message written on a white board (i.e. “I am at the grocery store”, or “Do page 15 in your math book.”)

A note in your lunch box from mom

As you and the children bring up these kinds of messages, show the objects where appropriate.

Be sure to BRIEFLY mention these.

Examples should take only as much time as necessary to make the point.

saying, "Have a nice day! I love you."
A postcard from a friend on vacation

Explain that God gives us messages because He wants us to know Him. God is not hiding. He wants us to know who He is and what He is like. God wants to tell us about Himself.

Explain that one way that God sends us messages or talks to us is through the world around us.

Read and explain the following verses:

Psalm 19:1—The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

The world tells us about God; it shows us how great He is.

If you are teaching very young children, you may need to omit some of these verses, or you may need to paraphrase them for the children.

Psalm 19:2—Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

Every day, the world tells us about God; it shows us His greatness.

Psalm 19:3—There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

God's world is a message to everyone about Himself. It doesn't matter what language a person speaks, the world is a message that all kinds of people can understand.

Ask the children if they can think of some ways in which the world tells us about God. *How does God tell us about Himself through His world?* (You may need to start the children off with some examples.)

Every day when the sun comes up, it is a message from God that He is watching over and taking care of the world. When you see the sun in the morning it is a message from God saying, "I'm still here. I am watching over my world."

You may want to show pictures to make the lesson more interesting. You may also want to show some nature pictures and have the children tell what God is saying to us through the world.

When you see a big storm and hear loud thunder, God is saying, "I am strong and powerful."

Pretty flowers are a message from God saying, "I made many beautiful things in this world to make you happy. I am a good God."

When you see lots and lots of stars—a whole sky full of stars—God is saying, "I am big. I am great."

Every day when the sun comes up in the morning and goes down at night God is sending us a message that He never changes.

Tell the children that there is another way that God speaks to us —another message to us from God. It is a written message. It is God’s special book to us.

Show the children the Bible. Tell them that God wrote the Bible to tell us about Himself. He wrote the Bible to tell us what He is like. He wants us to know Him. Give some Biblical examples of how God tells us about Himself through the Bible. Then let the children tell some. For example:

When we read about God opening the Red Sea for Israel, He is telling us that He can do anything. Nothing is too hard for Him. He is telling us that He takes care of His people.

If you have pictures of these Bible stories or others, you could show them.

When we read about how God destroyed the world with a flood, He is telling us that He does not like sin.

When we read about Jesus healing blind Bartimaeus, God is saying that He is kind and has power over sickness.

When we read about Jesus stilling the storm, God is telling us that He is stronger than anything else is and He is in control of all things.



APPLICATION

Would you ignore a letter or a postcard from your grandmother? What would you do with it? God has sent us a BIG, LONG letter—the Bible. Should we ignore it? What should we do with it? Why?

Why should you learn to read [better]?

What does the Bible tell us about God? Do you think this kind of Person would write a good book?

Would you like to thank God for being so wonderful?

Application can most effectively be done in a small group setting. The questions are just suggestions of possible directions to take the discussion. Pray for wisdom and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Be sensitive to the answers and the needs of the children.

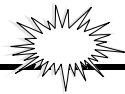
Have the children work on their workbook pages while you discuss the questions. This will hold their attention longer and will encourage them to open up without having to look you directly in the eye. Also, if you uncover a particular need of one child, you can focus on that one child, and the other children will be occupied.

Be sure to pray for the children and encourage them to pray for each other.



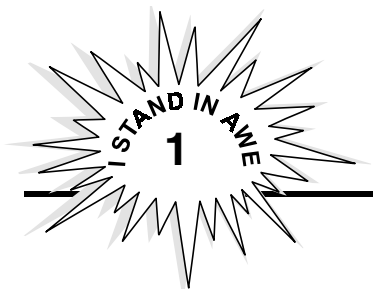
ACTIVITIES

1. Children can complete the workbook page.
2. Children can make a collage of nature objects or of nature pictures cut from magazines. While the children are making their collages, talk about God's creativity and God's messages to us through His creation. You may want to label the pictures *GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORLD*.
3. Children can color their nametags. (You may want to laminate these tags.)
4. Play SEND A MESSAGE. The teacher "sends messages" to the children—i.e., waving, smiling, beckoning with the hand, scratching the head and looking puzzled, etc. The children must guess what message is being sent—i.e. "Hi," "I'm happy," "Come here," "I don't understand," etc. Children can also be encouraged to demonstrate an unspoken message.
5. Play PASS THE MESSAGE relay. Split the class into teams. At the signal, the first child in each team runs to the teacher to receive a message (i.e. "God is great!"); he then runs back to his team and whispers the message to the second person in line. That person runs to the teacher, tags the teacher and runs back to whisper the message to the third person. The game continues until each team member has had a turn. In order to qualify as the winner however, the last team member must correctly state the message. (If teams are not even, someone may have to run twice. If the child was given the wrong message the second time, he may not correct it.)
6. Play a KEY VERSE GAME. (See Appendix.)
7. Play a BOOKS OF THE BIBLE GAME. (See Appendix.)



SEND HOME

- A Note to Parents (Include the badge requirements on the back side.)
- About Growing in Faith Sheets
- Growing in Faith take home sheet



GROWING IN FAITH A Message from God

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 19:1-3

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Romans 15:4—For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

KEY THEMES:

The Bible is a message from God

God wants to tell us about Himself; He wants to be known

READ:

2 Timothy 3:16 and Romans 15:4 with mom or dad and then talk over what you learned through what you have read.

PARENTS: Talk about this in simple terms, translating big concepts into simple ideas. Focus on "inspired by God", "written for our Instruction", and "why it is good for us to read God's message" in 2 Timothy 3:16.

FACTS & TERMS:

Scripture—another word for the Bible

PRAY:

Thank God that He makes rain and sunshine.

Thank God that He is better, smarter and greater than anyone.

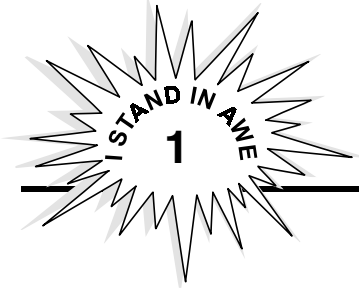
Thank God for giving us a book, the Bible, to tell us what He wants us to know.

*If your child is not memorizing other verses, you may want to encourage your child to memorize the key verse. If he is already memorizing, just discuss the key verse. Your child can color the letters or the border of the verse on the reverse side while discussing the verse.

Permission given to copy this page for parents.



*For everything that
was written in the
past was written to
teach us... Romans 15:4a*



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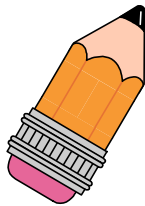
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Here's what to do on the next page:

Draw a picture of a Bible story on the scroll. Tell your teacher what this story tells you about God.

A MESSAGE FROM GOD

