

Use God's Word



Description:

A game, stories and practice with God's Word

Aims:

- Realize the importance of using God's Word and allowing it to guide us
- Pray that newly translated Scriptures will impact the people who receive them

Audience:

Grades 1-6

Space Needed:

Classroom

Country/Area:

- Kenya
- Philippines

Minimum Time Requirements:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| • Game with Scripture discussion | 10-15 minutes |
| • Story | 4 minutes |
| • Activity page | 4-10 minutes |
| • Sword story and application | 20-25 minutes |
| • Video clip | 1 minute |

Scripture to Study:

- Revelation 19:9
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- Ephesians 6:11 and 17

Materials:

- *My Volcano Adventure* Resource CD available at: www.wycliffe.org/Shop/ProductCatalog.aspx?Category=Children
- Computer and speakers
- Treats for the "banquet" (see p. 9)
- 2 pieces of paper
- 2 pairs of scissors
- Copies of activity page 11 for each child
- A Bible for every one or two children
- Pencils for everyone
- Toy or cardboard sword

If you have any questions about this lesson, please contact Wycliffe's Children's Communications Team at childrens_resources_orlando@wycliffe.org

Pre-class Preparations:

- Prepare Heavenly Banquet instructions in English and in Swahili (or another language of your choice). See p. 9 of this lesson.

English: “When I say ‘Go,’ work together. Draw a large picture of a key and cut it out of this paper. The first team to bring me their key wins!”

Swahili: “*Nitakaposema, ‘Go,’ mufanye kazi pamoja. Chora picha kubwa ya ufunguo halafu I kate kutoka kwa karatasi hii. Kundi ambaye ita niletea ufunguo kwanza ndio itakuwa washindi.*”

Practice reading the instructions in Swahili, or your chosen language, so you can read it comfortably later.

- Prepare the “banquet” (see ideas on p. 9).
- Make a copy of activity page 12 for each child.
- Set up computer and speakers. Cue up *Footworks*: “Still Waiting” from Lesson 12 on the Resource CD.

Class Time:

GAME WITH SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Play the “Heavenly Banquet” game. You may substitute candy or fruit for the complete “banquet”. You will find the instructions on page 9 of this lesson.

STORY

Tell a story of someone who had an important change take place in his or her life when reading God’s Word for the first time. You may tell the story of Nard Puygao (on page 8) if you don’t have a story to tell from your own experience.

Materials:

- Treats for the “banquet”
- 2 pieces of paper
- 2 pairs of scissors

After the story, ask,

- What difference did using God's Word make in Nard's (or the person in your story) life?
- What difference has using God's Word made in your life?

ACTIVITY PAGE

Distribute activity page 11 and say,

Let's read the top of this page together.

Read it and then ask,

Can you think of anything about which you would be in the dark if no one you know had ever had a Bible? What things would you **not** know without the Bible?

Allow a few children to respond and then say,

Let's find some other things that people may never know if they don't have a Bible.

Work together to find the verses listed and write down what readers learn from each verse. If you have limited time, you may choose to look up only the first verse for each topic. If the children struggle to find the verses, assign volunteers to look up individual verses and read them to the group, or read the verses to the students yourself.

SWORD STORY AND PRACTICE

Choose volunteers for the following roles:

- A circle of people to kneel and hold hands, forming the boma (corral)
- A tall child to play the part of Mkono Mmoja
- Several people to play the part of sheep
- One person for the part of Simba, the lion
- Two tall children in the roles of brothers who pull the lion's ears

Arrange the boma off to the side of the stage, by having several people kneel down and join hands to make a circle.

Bring the person playing Mkono Mmoja to stand beside you. Say,

Materials:

- Copies of full-color activity page 11
- A Bible for every one or two children
- Pencils for everyone

- Toy or cardboard sword
- Bibles

Far away in Africa lives a man named Mkono Mmoja, [MKOH-know MMOH-jah]. Can you say Mkono Mmoja?"

Allow time for brief “practice”.

Hold up one hand. Wiggle your hand.

In the African language of Swahili, Mkono Mmoja means 'one hand'. You see, Mkono Mmoja was born with one hand that had all five fingers. His other hand, though, had no fingers at all. So, everyone called him Mkono Mmoja, Mr. One-hand. He did not mind the name. In fact, he was proud that he could do almost everything everyone else did.

Mkono Mmoja grew up in the barren deserts of Northern Kenya. These sandy deserts get so hot that the rocks often crack right open! Every shepherd boy wishes, most of all, for a pair of sandals made from leather or old tires to protect his feet from the burning sand. Mkono Mmoja also wished that he had sandals as he worked right along with everyone else to care for the family livestock.

Hand the sword to Mkono Mmoja to stick in his belt or waistband. Say,

When he was young, Mom and Dad sent Mkono Mmoja out with a water gourd slung over his shoulder, a sword stuck in his belt and a shepherd's staff. At first he took the littlest lambs to eat grass close by camp. He had to stay close enough to see the little stick-and-skin dome houses. As he grew older, his parents gave him the older goats and sheep further from home.

Have the “sheep” pose around the shepherd and have volunteers act out the bolded portions of this story. Say,

Every day **he took the sheep** two or three miles away in search of grass. When Mkono Mmoja became a teenager, he took the full-grown sheep as far as six miles from the little camp. It was hard work for a young man.

All day Mkono Mmoja **herded the flock** over burning sand and sharp volcanic rocks. His feet grew thick calluses and his eyes grew quick to see any enemy. Snakes and scorpions hide everywhere. What other dangerous creatures do you think might live in the African desert?"

Allow time for responses, then say,

“Hungry lions, leopards, and hyenas want to catch sheep *and* little boys for dinner!”

Encourage Mkono Mmoja to swing his sword around, acting out all that you say while being careful not to hit anyone. Say,

Mkono Mmoja spent long hours *practicing with his sword*. Often *he sat* under the shade of a thorn bush, cooling his head, and *watching for danger*. He would practice just how to *lunge and jab* if a hyena attacked. Then he would practice how to attack a lion, or to *slice* the head off a deadly cobra as it raised itself up to strike. He'd *polish his sword* with a handful of sand, and then *practice some more*, until he became very skillful.

Help the sheep and Mkono Mmoja move toward the boma. Say,

Every evening Mkono Mmoja *brought his sheep back* to their boma [BO-mah], or corral, in the camp. Look at our boma where the sheep sleep at night. Can you say boma?

Allow “practice”, and then explain further,

The boma’s sharp thorns keep the sheep from wandering off, and they also help to keep lions out.

When Mkono Mmoja grew up, he owned his own animals. He lived in a small village of four domed houses with some of his relatives. One night, *Mkono Mmoja awakened to a scary sound*. Even though he could not see who prowled around out in the dark, *Mkono Mmoja knew* that roar. He recognized the voice of Simba the Lion!

Bring Simba to the front of the boma to act out his part. Say,

Simba had been bothering the villagers in that area for a long time. He had *eaten* many of their sheep and sometimes even *attacked people*. Now, Simba’s *hunger raged!* He hadn't eaten in days and could not resist the delicious aroma of fresh lamb. Simba had come for dinner!

Have Simba walk around the outside of the boma, acting out what you say. Say,

Simba *walked slowly around the boma, roaring and looking for a hole* through which to crawl. Instead, the sharp thorns just kept poking his big soft nose. *Ouch!* That

really hurt! He found no hole anywhere, but Simba simply had to have his dinner!

So, Simba **took a running leap** right over the top of the boma. He **chased the sheep** around and around. Sand and pebbles flew everywhere. The frightened **sheep cried out.** (bah-bah!)

Mkono Mmoja couldn't just let Simba have the sheep for dinner. Can you guess what he did? He **jumped right in there with that hungry lion!** I don't know if *I'd* be brave enough to do that! Quick as a flash, he **gave Simba two good whacks with his sword and jumped back out** again.

Simba didn't even know what hit him, but **he let go** of the little lamb for a moment.

Mkono Mmoja **called two of his brothers**, "Wake up! Come help me fight the lion," he yelled.

Have the two "brothers" join the commotion and act out their parts. Say,

These desert warriors really knew how to fight a lion. All three of them **jumped into the boma.** While Mkono Mmoja **stood ready at the front with his sword in hand,** the other two men **came up from behind.**

Have one brother take hold of one of the lion's ears, careful not to hurt him. Say,

One brother **took a hold of Simba's left ear.**

Have the other brother take hold of Simba's other ear. Say,

The other brother **took a hold of Simba's right ear.**

Have both brothers gently pull the ears and raise Simba's head so his neck is exposed. Say,

They **both pulled back** at the same time, lifting Simba's head high in the air.

Help Mkono Mmoja carefully draw the sword across Simba's neck. Say,

Mkono Mmoja **swung his sword** skillfully, and Simba the lion lived no more. The brothers saved the lambs!

Thank your volunteers, encourage applause from everyone, and ask your volunteers to sit back down with the rest of the group.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

- Q.** Why was Mkono Mmoja able to fight off the lion?
A. *He knew how to use his sword. He had been practicing.*
- Q.** Do any of you know whom God identifies as our enemy?
*Hint: God says he is like a roaring lion, prowling around and looking for someone to devour, or eat up.
A. *1 Peter 5:8-9 says that we need to be on the alert because our enemy, the devil, prowls around roaring and looking for someone to devour.*
- Q.** Mkono Mmoja used his sword to fight off the lion. We don't carry around African swords. But God says we have a sword to fight off Satan's attacks. What is our sword?
A. *(Hold your Bible up against the blade of the sword.) The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, or the Bible. Your sword is your Bible! (Read Ephesians 6:11 and 17, which tell us that the Bible is one of the most important weapons we have against Satan.)*

"WORD OF GOD" PRACTICE

Let's practice using God's Word for just a minute to get the idea.

Situation #1. You borrowed one of your dad's tools and broke it. Satan tempts you by saying, "Lie! Say your friend broke it. If you lie, you won't be punished. Your dad will never know." What Bible verse can you use as a sword against Satan's temptation here? (*Hint: Can you think of a Bible verse that talks about lying?)

Possible verses:

Colossians 3:9 "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices."

Leviticus 19:11 "Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another."

Situation #2. Your brother or sister hits you. Satan comes and tempts you by saying, "Get him or her back! Hit 'em really hard. It's OK because he or she hit you first." What Bible verse could you use as a sword to resist Satan here?

Possible verses:

Romans 12:17a "Do not repay anyone evil for evil."

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

VIDEO CLIP

Play "Footworks: Still Waiting" (Lesson 12) on *My Volcano Adventure* Resource CD.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for those who still live in darkness, waiting for God's Word.

You may want to sign up, as a class, to pray for a Bibleless people group. You can receive information about this prayer program at: <http://www.wycliffe.org/Pray/BiblelessPeoplesPrayerProject.aspx>

Materials:

- Resource CD
- Computer and speakers

Heavenly Banquet

Description: a team game to play before snack or meal time

Aim: illustrate need for Bible translation teams

Audience: Primary through high school, 8 or more participants

Time: 10-15 min.

Equipment: 2 pencils, 2 scissors, 2 pieces of paper, plus a 'banquet table' of very kid-desirable foods

Scriptures to Study:
Romans 10:8-15,
Revelation 5:9 and
7:9,10

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phone: 1-800-WYCLIFFE
1-800-992-5433

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Leader's Instructions:

Pre-class Preparations:

1. Write the following instructions on a card. Team One: "When I say 'Go,' work together. Draw a large picture of a key and cut it out of this paper. The first team to bring me their key wins!"
2. Write the following instructions on a second card. Team Two: "When I say 'Go,' work together. It won't be easy, but do your best to figure out how to win the banquet table! The first team to bring me the right answer wins."
3. Pile a table high with mouth-watering treats like grapes, plums, strawberries, kiwi, watermelon and cherries. Or, if you dare, display tempting cookies, muffins, ice cream and potato chips. If it is near meal time, how about a pizza buffet? Decide what is most heavenly to your kids, and okay with parents.

Class time:

1. Make sure everyone gets to admire the table from a short distance.
2. Divide the children into three groups: *Team One*, *Team Two*, and the *Cheering Section*.
3. Be sure the two teams are separated as much as possible. Distribute pencils, scissors and paper to Team One and Team Two. Positioning the cheering section to be able to watch all that goes on.
4. Explain that the winning team and the cheering section will get to enjoy the goodies on the table.
5. Quietly give the instruction cards to the proper teams, and instruct both teams to be careful not to let the other team see their instructions. Tell them not to begin until you say "Go."
6. Then instruct the Cheering Section to clap, yell and generally encourage whichever team seems to have the most trouble.
7. Start the contest by saying, "Go!"

8. At the end of the contest, reveal the differing instructions by having someone from each team read their instructions.

Discussion and Application:

1. **Ask the children**, “What was unfair about this contest?”

Read Revelation 19:9. Explain, “In real life some people, like Team One, have the instructions about how to get to the great banquet table in heaven. They have the key! Others, like Team Two, do not! They haven’t heard in their own language that Jesus died for their sins. They will miss out on the banquet unless someone tells them in a way that they can understand.”

2. **Ask**, “Where do people find this information?” (*in the Bible*). **Ask them for specific verses to explain salvation. (e.g. John 3:16)** “But,” **tell them**, “millions and millions of people do not have these instructions in a language they can understand. Why? They don’t have the Bible in a language they can read. God wants us to tell everyone how to get to His great banquet table in heaven. How can you help? Ask God if you should pray, give or go so that others can have a Bible too!” **Pray now, thanking God that we have the Bible in our language, which explains how to know God personally through Jesus Christ. Ask Him to reveal to each child how they can help make it possible for more people to enjoy that same privilege.**

3. **Ask**, “Is there anyone on Team One who will help these poor, drooling members of Team Two? Would you share your key? Is there enough to share? Is it the right thing to do?” **One child should volunteer to take the key and the instructions to Team Two. Make the connection between that act and what God is doing around the world today through His servants.**

4. Once Team 2 has followed the directions, *everyone* can sit down to the feast!

Closing Song: *His Banner Over Me Is Love* (He feeds me at His banqueting table . . .)

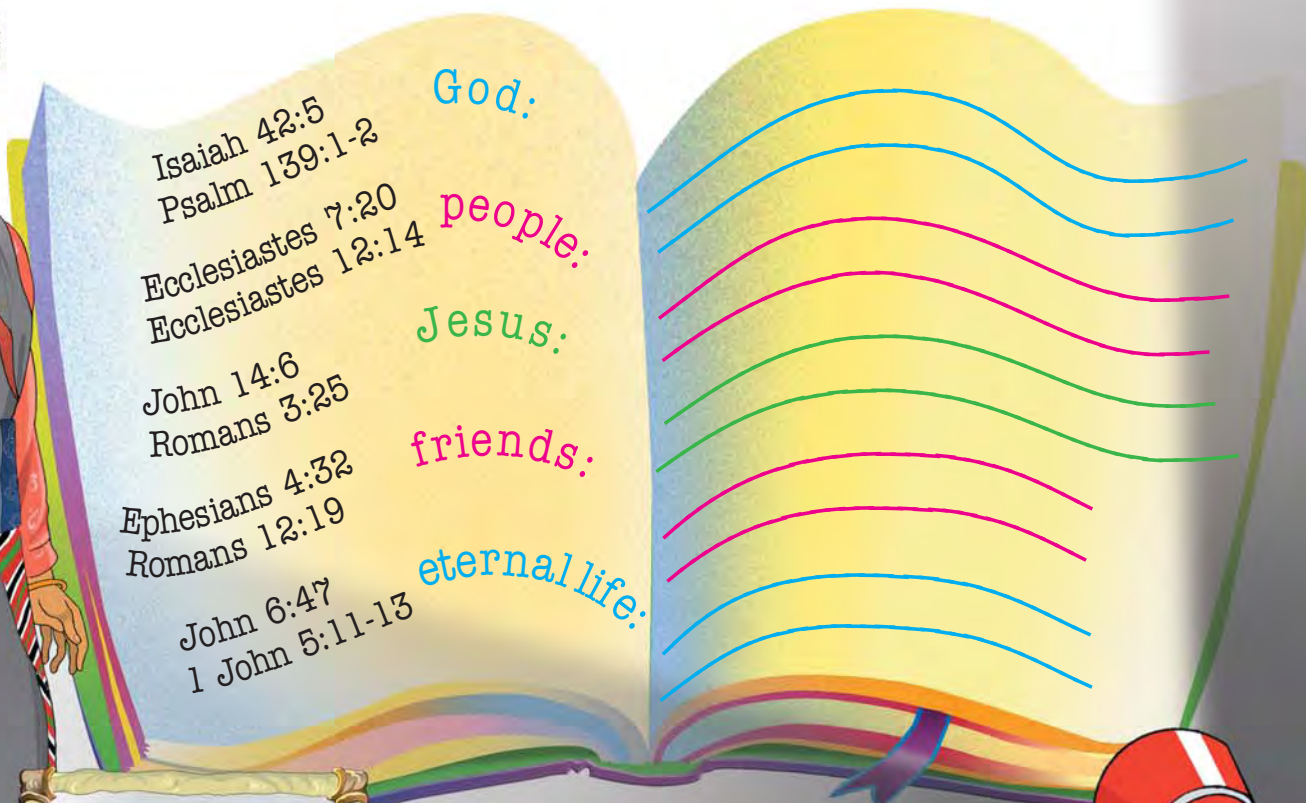
Notes:



Use God's Word

When people read the early drafts of each Bible book, they discover many new things.

Imagine that no one you know has ever had a Bible. You would be "in the dark" about a lot of things. What hidden information comes to light when you read these verses?



Isaiah 42:5
 Psalm 139:1-2
 Ecclesiastes 7:20
 Ecclesiastes 12:14
 John 14:6
 Romans 3:25
 Ephesians 4:32
 Romans 12:19
 John 6:47
 1 John 5:11-13

God:

people:

Jesus:

friends:

eternal life:

Y Language*
 population: 7,000
 location: South Asia
 New Testament
 completed 1992
 * Name withheld
 for security reasons.

God's Word brings light and life-change! Tell how a verse from the Bible has changed your life.