

Session 2—The Bible Will Last Forever

Aim: To understand that God's Word is eternal.

Scripture Text: Jeremiah 36

Key Verse: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

POWER Line: God's Word is forever!

Supplies:

- ✓ items that are old, broken, expired, or out of style
- ✓ glass jar, bowl, or Pyrex dish
- ✓ small mirror
- ✓ flashlight
- ✓ Bibles for students
- ✓ index cards
- ✓ recording of "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet"
- ✓ posterboard

Preparation:

- ✓ Collect items that are old, worn out, out of date/style to contrast with how the Word of God is eternal.
- ✓ Practice the object lesson. This demonstration works best in a dark room.
- ✓ Collect enough Bibles so that every one or two children can have one.

- ✓ Write words of the Bible verse on index cards (one word per card). Prepare enough sets for several groups to have one set. Thoroughly mix all of the cards/sets together before you pass them out to the children.
- ✓ Prepare signs for the Bible story. Write, "He's not going to like it" on one sign, "Hear the Word of the Lord" on another, and "Write it down" on the last sign.

Schedule

- I. *POWER* of Worship
 - A. Welcome/Worship
 - B-I-B-L-E "Bingo" version
 - B. Truth Conductor
 - God's Word is forever.
 - C. Testimony Time
 - D. Truth Conductor
 - Object Lesson: A Forever Promise
- II. *POWER* of the Word
 - A. Truth Conductor
 - Look at the Book
 - B. Bible Memorization
 - Energy Outlet
 - C. Spirit Generator
 - "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet"
 - D. Illustrated Sermon
 - E. Invitation and Prayer

F. Review

POWER of Worship

Welcome/Worship

Lead children in worship songs. Introduce this version of "Bingo."

There is a book that is God's Word.

The Bible is its na-ame.

B-I-B-L-E,

B-I-B-L-E,

B-I-B-L-E,

The Bible is God's Word.

Today we are talking about the Word of God. What did we learn in our last children's church about God's Word? The Bible is God's Word and the Bible is true. Today we will learn that *God's Word is forever.*

Truth Conductor

Show the items that you have brought that are expired, worn out, broken, empty, or old fashioned. Give each item to a student and ask him to tell the rest of the class why the item is no longer of use. **Some things only last a little while and then they are gone, but *God's Word is forever.* Why do you think *God's Word is forever?* The Bible says Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He never changes and neither does His Word. It never goes out of style; it never wears out. *God's Word is forever.***

Testimony Time

Ask students who are willing to stand and complete this sentence. **"I like what God did when He . . .** (healed my mom, filled me with the Holy Ghost, etc.)." Encourage students to talk about what God has done.

Energy Outlet

Ask the children to hang their arms down, palms facing forward. As they slowly raise their arms, they name a characteristic of Jesus, "Jesus, You are (*wonderful*)."

Starting with a whisper, the volume increases as the children lift their arms. By the time their arms are over their heads, they should be shouting, "Jesus, You are wonderful." Ask the children to name another characteristic of Jesus (i.e., loving, great, awesome). Repeat this activity several times, using a different characteristic each time. End by having the children repeat, "Jesus, I love You," as they raise their arms.

As the volume increases and the arms go up, the intensity grows. This is a powerful worship exercise.

Truth Conductor—A Forever Promise

Use this object lesson to emphasize that *God's Word is forever*.

Fill the jar, bowl, or clear Pyrex baking pan with water. Place a mirror inside the water-filled container. Tilt the mirror slightly upward. Turn off the lights and shine the flashlight onto the mirror. A rainbow will appear. (Note: if no rainbow appears at first, change the angle of the light from the flashlight or alter the angle of the mirror.)

God put a rainbow in the sky after Noah came out of the ark as a sign of His promise never to destroy the earth with water again. That happened over 4,000 years ago. *God's Word is forever.* His promises are forever. Every time you see a rainbow, it's just a reminder that *God's Word is forever.*

***POWER* of the Word**

Truth Conductor—Look at the Book

If possible give each child a Bible. Take a few minutes to let students become familiar with the divisions and books of the Bible. Explain how it is organized and divided.

The Bible is really made up of sixty-six books. Some of the books are about history; some of the books are about what is going to happen in the future. Some of the books contain love stories, some are stories about Jesus, and some of the books are about Jesus' friends.

The Bible is divided into two main parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Have helpers show students where the divisions are. The Old Testament is about people who lived before Jesus. The New Testament is about Jesus and His church.

Each book in the Bible is divided into chapters and verses so that it is easy to find certain stories and sayings. To show you what I mean, let's look up our Bible verse, Psalm 119:105. Write the Scripture reference on the board and explain each part. The book is the Book of Psalms; the chapter is 119. These two little dots are a colon and are always in front of the verse. See if you can find the Book of Psalms in your Bibles. Helpers

assist students in finding the Book of Psalms. Older students and students who are familiar with the Bible can help younger students or children new to church. **Now look for chapter 119. When you have found chapter 119, follow the numbered verses down to 105. Now, let's read our Bible verse together.**

Bible Memorization

Energy Outlet

Divide students into small groups. Give each group a set of fifteen Bible verse cards. As each group tries to put the verse together, they can trade with another group for the index cards they need (card for card). The team that gets the whole verse together first is the winner.

Spirit Generator

Play the recording of "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet" as children settle down to hear the Bible story. The song will also help to reinforce the Bible verse.

Illustrated Sermon

Select three students to hold the signs you have prepared. Tell them when they hear the name assigned to them, they are to hold up the sign and lead the class in saying what is printed on it. If a student forgets to hold up the sign at the appropriate time, the audience can remind him. This will keep everyone listening. Practice before telling the story.

Jehoiakim—"He's not going to like it."

Jeremiah—"Hear the Word of the Lord."

Baruch—"Write it down."

A wicked king named Jehoiakim (sign) ruled in Judah. He did not love the Lord and he led the nation in worshipping idols.

God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah (sign). "I want you to write down all of the warnings and words that I have spoken to My people for the last twenty-three years." The Lord wanted to make sure that His Word was available to everyone.

In those days, about the only people who could read or write were scribes. These men were hired to do the reading and writing for everyone else. Jeremiah's (sign) scribe, Baruch (sign), wrote on a scroll all the words that the Lord spoke through Jeremiah (sign). He wrote how the Lord was angry and sad at the same time that His people continued to sin. God told Jeremiah (sign) that He was going to destroy the nation because of their wickedness.

It took a long time for Baruch (sign) to write down all the words that Jeremiah (sign) received from the Lord. When he was finished, Jeremiah (sign) told Baruch (sign) to read the scroll to the people when they came to the Temple. While Baruch (sign) was reading the words to the people, another scribe named Micaiah heard what Baruch (sign) said. Micaiah went to the palace of the king and told all of the officials that Baruch (sign) had an important message from the Lord.

The officials requested that Baruch (sign) come to the palace and read God's words to them. When they heard the Word of the Lord, they were very afraid. They knew that they must tell King Jehoiakim (sign) about it, and they knew he wouldn't like it.

"You and Jeremiah (sign) better hide," they told Baruch (sign). "King Jehoiakim (sign) is not going to like what you have written."

King Jehoiakim (sign) was sitting on his throne by the fire. Another scribe in the palace read the scroll to him. As the king heard the Word of the Lord, he started to get mad. He didn't want to hear that God was going to punish him and the land of Judah for their sin. King Jehoiakim (sign) didn't believe it was true. We might not like what the Word of God says, but that doesn't change the fact that it is true.

Jehoiakim (sign) took a knife and started cutting up the scroll as the scribe read it. "I don't like that part," he said. He tossed the paper into the fire. The officials couldn't believe their eyes. They begged the king not to destroy the Word of the Lord, but Jehoiakim (sign) continued cutting up the scroll and throwing it into the fire. He thought if he burned the Word of the Lord, he could ignore what it said. Jehoiakim (sign) thought he could get rid of the Word and do whatever he wanted to do. He was wrong.

All of Jeremiah (sign) and Baruch's (sign) hard work was destroyed in just a few minutes. Jehoiakim (sign) ordered their arrest, but the palace officials had given wise advice. Jeremiah (sign) and Baruch (sign) were well hidden, and they were busy. They were creating another scroll, and this time the Lord added more words about King Jehoiakim (sign). Disaster was coming upon him and his family because he would not obey the Word of the Lord. Sure enough, the next year the nation of Judah was defeated by an invading army and Jehoiakim (sign) was replaced as king and was probably murdered.

The words that Baruch (sign) and Jeremiah (sign) wrote are right here in our Bible. Show the Book of Jeremiah. **God's Word cannot be destroyed by those who do not like it or do not agree with it. *God's Word is forever.***

Collect the signs, thank the participants, and let them be seated.

Invitation and Prayer

How about you? Are there parts in the Bible that you don't like? Would you like to cut out some things that God has said and throw them into the fire? Do you think the Bible is old-fashioned or out-of-date?

The Word of God is forever. It cannot be destroyed because we don't like it. We cannot ignore it because we think it's old-fashioned and doesn't fit today's lifestyles. We need to obey the Word of God.

The Word tells us to repent of our sins and be baptized in Jesus' name for the remission of our sins. The Word promises that God will give us the Holy Spirit if we are obedient. The Word tells us how to live a holy life. We invite disaster into our lives, just like King Jehoiakim, when we reject the Word of God.

Lead students in prayer for salvation. Encourage students to repent if they have not obeyed the Word. Urge them to obey the Word of God.

Review

Copy this simple outline of the Bible story for as many small groups as you wish. Cut the numbers off and the sentences apart and ask the small groups to put the events in order.

1. Jeremiah and Baruch write a book.
2. Jeremiah and Baruch's book warned of judgment to come and offered forgiveness to all who would repent.
3. The book was read in the Temple.
4. The book was read to the officials in the palace.
5. The book was read to King Jehoiakim.
6. Jehoiakim became angry when the book was read to him.
7. King Jehoiakim destroyed the book.
8. King Jehoiakim wanted to arrest Jeremiah and Baruch.
9. Jeremiah and Baruch wrote another book.
10. Jehoiakim and Judah were destroyed.