

Session 3—God's Word Is Our Guide

Aim: To understand that the Bible provides direction for our lives.

Scripture Text: II Chronicles 18

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

POWER Line: God's Word is our guide.

Supplies:

- ✓ items/visuals from sessions 1 and 2
- ✓ compass
- ✓ Bible
- ✓ wrapping paper
- ✓ copy of skit
- ✓ posterboard
- ✓ recording of "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet"
- ✓ clothesline
- ✓ clothespins
- ✓ index cards
- ✓ four shirts
- ✓ straight pins

Preparation:

- ✓ Select someone to play the part of the teen in the skit. Make a copy of the script for him. Arrange a practice session.
- ✓ Prepare presents for skit.
- ✓ Cut giant letters (N, E, S, W) out of posterboard. Color with fluorescent markers.

- ✓ Select four shirts for the Bible story. Write the names of the four characters on four index cards and pin the cards to the fronts of the shirts. Set up a clothesline across the front of the room.

Schedule

- I. *POWER* of Worship
 - A. Welcome/Worship
 - B-I-B-L-E
 - Praise Exercises
 - B. Testimony Time
 - C. Skit—A Strange Watch
- II. *POWER* of the Word
 - A. Bible Memorization
 - Energy Outlet—Which Direction
 - B. Spirit Generator
 - “Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet”
 - C. Illustrated Sermon
 - D. Invitation and Prayer
 - E. Extra Idea

***POWER* of Worship**

Welcome/Worship

Sing worship choruses. If time allows let the children’s “choirs” from session 1 perform again. Sing the “Bingo” version of “The B-I-B-L-E.”

Review with children what they have learned so far about God’s Word. Hold up items from previous sessions as reminders (fairy tale book, old worn out item, etc.).**The**

Bible is God's Word and it is true. God's Word will last forever. Today we are going to talk about how *God's Word is our guide*.

Lead the children in praise exercises.

Shout unto the Lord with the voice of triumph. (Hallelujah!)

Clap your hands, all ye people. (Clap one-two-three.)

Leap for joy. (Jump in place.)

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary. (Raise hands and praise the Lord.)

Testimony Time

Ask children who are willing to tell which Bible story is their favorite and why. Ask children which Bible story speaks to them of God's love or God's power.

Skit—A Strange Watch

(adapted from Friendship—kids POWER hour creative children's church curriculum)

Teen enters singing and carrying two presents.

Teen: **Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday to me.**

Teacher: **Oh, (name), we didn't know it was your birthday. Let's sing to him, kids.** Sings.

Teen: **Stop! Stop! I like your singing, but it's really not my birthday. My grandma and grandpa sent me these presents, so I was pretending it's my birthday. You guys pretend in children's church sometimes, don't you? Sometimes you pretend like you are people in Bible stories.**

Teacher: **Yes, we do, but we always remember that the Bibles stories are real.**

Teen: **Yep, and these are real presents. And I'm going to open them even if it's not my birthday. This one's from my grandpa.** Slowly opens the package containing the compass, talking as he works. **What do you think it is, kids? Who wants to guess?** Let children guess. **Well, I think it's a . . . a . . . a motorbike. Would that fit in this box? How about a computer? Still too big?** Scratches head. **Maybe it's a check for a million dollars. That would fit in this little box. Problem is my grandpa doesn't have a million dollars.** Pulls out compass. **Why look at this, kids. It's a watch.** Frowns. **Where's the watch band? Guess it's a pocket watch. What time is it?** Looks at compass. Holds it closer to his face. Frowns. Shakes head. **Must be a Chinese watch. I can't tell what time it is.** Holds compass closer to face. Looks at it cross-eyed. Turns it upside down. **Strangest watch I ever saw.**

Teacher: Holds out hand. **Let me see it.**

Teen: Shakes head. **Wait a minute. I think I can read it. But this is weird. Instead of a 12, it's got an "N." Instead of a 3, it's got an "E." This crazy watch thinks the ABCs are numbers. I'm not too smart, but I'm smarter than that.**

Teacher: **An "N" and an "E"?**

Teen: **Yeah, and it's only got one hand. Whoever saw a watch with one hand?**

Teacher: **Let me see that watch, (name).**

Teen: Hands the compass to the teacher. **I don't want to hurt my grandpa's feelings, but I'm gonna trade this watch in for one that works.**

Teacher: Laughs. **(Name), this is not a watch.**

Teen: **It isn't? Well, what is it?**

Teacher: **This is a compass.**

Teen: **A compass? You mean one of those things that tells you what direction is north, south, east, and west?**

Teacher: **Yes. A compass is very important to people hiking in the wilderness or sailing on the ocean. When a ship is at sea away from land, every direction looks the same. It is easy to get lost. Many years ago sailors told the direction by the stars and the sun. But in a storm, they couldn't tell which direction was which. When the compass was invented, it was a life saver for sailors.** Shows the teen the compass. **Look. This needle or little hand always points north.**

Teen: **Well, what do you know! That's why that "N" is there. Isn't my grandpa smart to send me a compass? I'm going sailing with my dad today. This compass will come in handy. Now let's see what my grandma sent me. Want to guess again, kids?** Children guess and the teen opens the package. Holds up the Bible. **It's a Bible!**

Teacher: **That's nice. Didn't you have a Bible, (name)?**

Teen: Hangs head. **Well, I did, but I lost it.**

Teacher: **You lost your Bible?**

Teen: **Yep. I think I lost it at church.**

Teacher: **You lost God's Word in His house?**

Teen: Nods. **I think so. Any of you kids ever lose your Bible at church?** Children respond.

Teacher: **That kind of reminds me of our Bible story in the first Children's Prayer Revival session. Who lost the Word of God in that Bible story, kids?** Allow children to respond.

Prompt if needed. **Who found the Word of God in the Temple?**

Teen: Starts cleaning up the paper. **I've got the best grandpa and grandma in the world.**

Teacher: **They certainly are wise.**

Teen: **Wise? You mean smart?**

Teacher: **Yes. Your grandpa sent you a compass to keep you from getting lost at sea. And your grandma sent you a compass to keep you from being lost in eternity.**

Teen: **My grandma didn't send me a compass. She sent me a Bible.**

Teacher. Nods. **I know. The Bible is our compass. It points us to Jesus our savior. It shows us how to be saved. *God's Word is our guide.***

POWER of the Word

Bible Memorization

Energy Outlet—Which Direction

Choose four children to be compass points. Give each one a giant letter and position them on the corresponding walls. Ask everyone to stand. As you call out a direction, everyone turns that way.

Quote together the Bible verse, Psalm 119:105. Give orders: **"All boys turn to the west and quote Psalm 119:105."** **"Everyone wearing red, point to the north and quote**

Psalm 119:105." "Everyone who likes pepperoni pizza turn to the south, then to the north, now the west, back to the south, and quote Psalm 119:105." "Everyone spin around quickly and stop, facing the east. Quote Psalm 119:105."

Give orders rapidly until children are breathless.

Spirit Generator

Play a recording of "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet" as children settle down and prepare for the Bible story. Write the words to the song on posterboard or project with an overhead projector so children can sing along.

Illustrated Sermon

Stretch a clothesline across the front of the room and hang four shirts on it. The shirts represent Jehoshaphat, Ahab, four hundred prophets of Ahab, and the prophet Micaiah. As you tell the Bible story and name each character, a student will move from shirt to shirt as you say the name that goes with the shirt. Select a student and say the names a few times to let him become familiar with the location of each character/shirt. Encourage the audience to be alert and direct the student if he fails to move to the correct shirt. The names of the characters are italicized below.

Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah. He was a good king who obeyed the Word of God.

Jehoshaphat had dinner with *Ahab*, king of Israel. *Ahab* was a wicked king and one that did not obey the Lord. King *Ahab* asked *Jehoshaphat* to go to war with him

against his enemies. *Jehoshaphat* agreed, but said, "Let's hear from the Word of the Lord first." *Jehoshaphat* was wise. He knew that *God's Word is our guide*.

King *Ahab* called in four hundred of his *prophets* and asked them, "Should we go to battle against our enemies or should we stay here?" Now these four hundred *prophets* were supposed to speak for God, but they knew what *Ahab* wanted to hear so they said, "Yes, go to war against your enemies. God will help you win."

King *Jehoshaphat* knew that these *prophets* did not speak for the Lord. King *Ahab* was well known for worshiping idols and *Jehoshaphat* knew that his *prophets* probably worshiped idols, too. "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord here besides these guys?" *Jehoshaphat* asked. He wanted direction from the Lord before he started a war. He knew that it was important to hear the Word of the Lord before doing anything so important.

King *Ahab* said, "Oh yeah. There is another guy named *Micaiah* who speaks for the Lord, but I hate him. He never says anything good about me." *Ahab* sent for *Micaiah*. While they waited, the four hundred *prophets* continued to tell *Ahab* that he should go to war.

The messenger that went to get *Micaiah* told him, "Now listen, *four hundred prophets* have told *Ahab* what he wants to hear. So why don't you be a team player and cooperate."

Micaiah said, "I will speak what the Lord says."

When *Ahab* asked *Micaiah* what he should do about going to war, *Micaiah* agreed with the four hundred *prophets*. *Ahab* knew that *Micaiah* was only making fun of him and the *four hundred prophets*. "Tell the truth!" he said. "Say what the Lord says."

Micaiah then told *Ahab* that he was doomed. *Ahab* turned to *Jehoshaphat* and said, "Didn't I tell you that *Micaiah* never says anything good about me? Put this man in prison and I will deal with him when I come back from war."

But *Ahab* was killed in battle just like the Lord told *Micaiah* he would be. *Ahab* should have listened to the Word of the Lord.

Thank your helper and ask him to be seated.

Invitation and Prayer

When we need to know what to do we should look to the Word of God for answers. The Bible is like a compass pointing us in the right direction.

The Bible gives us directions on how to please God, how to get along with people, how to do well at work and school, how to treat our parents and other people, how to be saved, and how to live a holy life. The answers that we need for life are in the Word of God. Do you need direction in your life today? If you want to obey the Word of God, stand with me today and ask the Lord to show you through His Word what you need to do.

Pray with children for salvation or for other needs in their lives. Ask the children to be specific about what they need from the Lord.

Extra Idea—A Light in the Dark (*adapted from Friendship—kids POWER hour creative children's church curriculum*)

Tape the giant letters used in Bible Memorization to four different walls. Turn off the lights and show how a flashlight is a light unto your feet and a lamp unto your path. Hand the flashlight to a child, give him directions to touch the "N" on the north wall, quote Psalm 119:105, and come back to his seat before the class counts to twenty. Everyone counts slowly. When he returns, give different directions to another child or two. Turn on lights and talk about how God's Word gives light and direction.