

Sunday School – Week 3: God’s Word to Us

Made for the second week of October • about 45 minutes

Your companion for My Bible Adventure, Lesson 2. The kids do the worksheet as-is with real Bibles in hand; this expanded companion keeps the original plan and adds every line to read aloud, every transition, and help with likely questions.



Illustrative image, made for this guide.

Start with the read-aloud script. Read SAY aloud. DO tells you what to do silently. Leave time for the children to find, talk and write; this is a 45-minute class, not 45 minutes of talking. Your original quick guide follows the script below.

The read-aloud script

Before the children arrive

DO: Flag John 3:16, Psalm 119:105 and 2 Timothy 3:16 in your own Bible. Find the table of contents and the start of the New Testament. Read those three verses once. Write the worksheet's short memory verse on the board: All Scripture is inspired by God. Under it write 2 Timothy 3:16.

DO: Keep this script open. Read the SAY lines aloud; DO lines are for you only. Pause where shown. The suggested child answers are examples, not a test. Read each full detective verse from your actual Bible, then use the explanation below. No need to memorize this guide.

KNOW: Different translations use different words. The worksheet's memory line is the beginning of 2 Timothy 3:16, not the entire verse. In an Orthodox Bible using Greek Psalm numbering, Psalm 119:105 may be labeled Psalm 118:105. Check for the line about a lamp and a path. Keep the worksheet reference unchanged.

Minutes 0-5: arrival and prayer

SAY: Welcome! Come sit with us. Here is your Bible and your worksheet. Write your name at the top. If you need help, I can help you. You don't have to know how to find things in the Bible yet. We will learn together.

DO: Give out pencils. Help with names and the date. Pair a confident reader with a child who needs help, without labeling anyone a weak reader.

SAY: Let's put our pencils down for a moment and get ready to pray. Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible. Thank You that it is Your Word to us. Help us learn from it today. Amen.

SAY: Today we are going to be Bible detectives. We will find some words in our Bibles and discover what they teach us.

Minutes 5-10: the big idea

DO: Hold up your Bible. Point to BIG IDEA on the worksheet.

SAY: This is the Bible. It looks like one big book, but inside it is a collection of books. There are stories, prayers, songs, teachings and letters. They help us know God and learn how to live with Him.

SAY: Listen to our big idea: The Bible is God's Word. It teaches me how to know, love, and follow God. Say that with me, one little part at a time. The Bible is God's Word. [Pause.] It teaches me how to know, [pause] love, [pause] and follow God.

SAY: Who do you think wrote the Bible?

DO: Take two answers. If no one answers, go straight to the next line.

SAY: Many people wrote the Bible's books over a long time. God inspired them. That means God guided them through His Holy Spirit to share His truth. They used human words, and God worked through them. We call the Bible God's Word because it helps us know Him.

SAY: When we follow God, we learn to love Him and love other people. What is one loving thing we can do?

DO: Accept examples like sharing, helping or including someone. Say: Yes, that is a loving choice. Allow a minute for responses, then move on.

SAY: Now let's see how this big book is organized.

Minutes 10-15: Old and New Testament

DO: Open the contents page and show the two headings. Then open to the beginning of the New Testament. Have children use their own contents pages; page numbers vary.

SAY: The Bible has two main parts. This first part is the Old Testament. It tells about God creating the world and about God's people before Jesus came into the world. It includes their prayers and God's promises. It helps us get ready to understand Jesus.

SAY: This second part is the New Testament. It tells about Jesus: His life, His teaching, His death and His resurrection, which means He rose from the dead. It also tells about His Church and how His followers learned to live. Both parts belong together. We still read both.

SAY: Point to OLD TESTAMENT on your worksheet. Say: Before Jesus. [Pause.] Now point to NEW TESTAMENT. Say: After Jesus came. [Pause.] The New Testament includes Jesus' life, not only things that happened later.

SAY: Who can point to the New Testament in your Bible? If you're not sure, look at the contents page with your partner. There is no race.

DO: Let pairs find it. Section 1 is already printed on the worksheet; there are no blanks to fill. Have children point and repeat, not invent extra writing tasks.

SAY: You've found the two big parts. Now we will use three clues to find one tiny place inside them.

Minutes 15-17: start Bible Detective

DO: Write John 3:16 on the board. Give each child three page flags. Demonstrate slowly in your own Bible.

SAY: A Bible address has three clues. John is the book. Three is the chapter. Sixteen is the verse. A chapter is a section of a book. A verse is a small numbered part inside the chapter. Say our clues with me: Book. Chapter. Verse.

SAY: Open the contents page near the front. Find John, without a number in front of its name. Turn to the page listed there. In the book of John, find the big number 3. Then look for the small number 16. Put your finger beside it.

SAY: Readers, read with your partner. Partners, help hold the Bible and put in the page flag. Then swap jobs if you can. If reading is hard, listen and tell us one thing you heard. We help each other; we don't race.

IF SOMEONE IS LOST, SAY: Which clue are you working on: the book, the chapter or the verse? Let's find the contents page together. Here is John. I'll help you turn to the book. Can you find the big 3? Now let's look together for the little 16.

DO: After about a minute, help any stuck pair open to the book. Do not wait for everyone to find it alone. Have them follow your reading while a helper points to the verse.

Minutes 17-20: John 3:16

SAY: Keep a finger beside verse 16. I'm going to read it from my Bible. Your words might sound a little different, and that's okay. Listen for whom God loves and whom He gave.

DO: Read John 3:16 aloud from your Bible. If a child wants to read, invite them, but don't require it.

SAY: This verse tells us that God loves the world. That includes you, me and people everywhere. He gave His Son, Jesus. Believing in Jesus means trusting Him. Eternal life means life with God that does not end. The verse tells us about God's love and the life He offers through Jesus.

SAY: Whom does God love? [Pause.] Yes, the world. Whom did He give? [Pause.] His Son, Jesus.

SAY: Mark the box beside John 3:16 on the worksheet. Under ONE THING I LEARNED, you can write: God loves us. Or write another thing you noticed. If writing is hard, tell your partner or me and we'll help you.

SAY: Leave your page flag there. Our next clue is in the Old Testament.

Minutes 20-22: Psalm 119:105

SAY: Find the book called Psalms in your contents page. It is often near the middle of the Bible. Find Psalm 119, then verse 105. Psalms are prayers and songs. If your Bible calls this Psalm 118, we'll check the words together.

DO: Help pairs find it. Read the verse aloud from your Bible. The key image is God's word as a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.

SAY: Imagine walking along a dark path with a flashlight. What does the light help you do?

DO: Pause for answers like see, not trip or know where to walk. Do not darken the room or ask children to walk with closed eyes.

SAY: Yes, it helps us see where to step. This verse is a word picture. The Bible does not turn into a real flashlight. God's Word helps us see how to live and choose what is good. If someone is left out, God's teaching about love can help us choose to include them.

SAY: Put your page flag in. Mark the box beside this verse. One thing you could write is: God's Word guides me. Now let's find our last clue.

Minutes 22-25: 2 Timothy 3:16

SAY: Find 2 Timothy in your contents page. There are two books called Timothy. We want the second one, with 2 in front. It is near the back of the New Testament. Find chapter 3, then verse 16.

DO: Help pairs find it. Read the full verse from your Bible.

SAY: Scripture is another name for the holy writings in the Bible. Inspired by God means that God guided the people who wrote them through His Holy Spirit. The rest of this verse says Scripture is useful for teaching us,

correcting us and helping us learn what is right. It helps us grow in a good way of life.

SAY: What does Scripture help us learn? [Pause.] Yes, it teaches us and helps us choose what is right. Mark the box and write one thing you learned. You could write: The Bible teaches us. Put in your last page flag.

SAY: You used book, chapter and verse to find God's Word yourselves. Now let's find the four special books about Jesus.

Minutes 25-30: the Gospel Challenge

SAY: Gospel means good news. The four Gospels tell us the good news about Jesus: what He did and taught, His death and His resurrection. Their names are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Say them with me: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

SAY: The Church knows these four Gospel writers as saints. Matthew and John were among Jesus' twelve apostles, His close followers. Mark was an early Christian associated with Peter, one of those apostles. Luke was a doctor and a companion of Paul. He carefully learned from people who had seen and heard what happened. They shared the good news about the same Jesus.

SAY: Look at section 3 on your worksheet. Circle Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Genesis, Exodus, Psalms and Acts are Bible books too, but they are not one of the four Gospels.

DO: Read all eight printed names aloud for children who need help. Give two minutes to circle them and check together. If time remains, help pairs find the Gospels in their contents pages. In most ordinary Bibles the order is Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; use each child's printed contents rather than insisting every edition is identical.

SAY: Let's check: Matthew? Circle. Mark? Circle. Luke? Circle. John? Circle. We have four! The Gospels teach us about Jesus. Now let's think about a loving choice we can make.

Minutes 30-35: what would Jesus want me to do?

SAY: Look at section 4. I will read each problem. You tell me a loving choice, then draw a line to it. First: My friend is alone. What could I do?

DO: Pause. If needed, read the choices aloud.

SAY: Invite them to play. Let's draw that line. What words could you say to them?

DO: Take one answer such as Do you want to play with us?

SAY: Next: Someone is mean to me. What is the loving choice on the page? [Pause.] Stay calm and choose kindness. Draw that line. Kindness does not mean letting someone hurt you. You can step away and tell a trusted grown-up. You do not have to be mean back.

SAY: Last: I am worried. What is the choice? [Pause.] Pray and trust God. Draw that line. You can pray: God, please help me. You can also tell a trusted grown-up what is worrying you. Feeling worried does not mean you've

done something wrong.

SAY: We can use what we learn from God when we make choices. Now we'll learn one short Bible line by heart.

Minutes 35-40: memory verse

SAY: Look at the memory verse. All Scripture is inspired by God. That's the beginning of 2 Timothy 3:16, the verse we found. Scripture means the Bible's holy writings. Inspired by God means God guided the writers. Listen once: All Scripture is inspired by God.

DO: 35:00-36:00: Point to each word on the board. Have children repeat the whole line twice, then the reference: Second Timothy, chapter three, verse sixteen.

SAY: Now we're going to make the words disappear, but keep them in our minds. Say the missing words too. We'll do it together, not one person at a time.

DO: 36:00-38:00: Run the two-minute game. Erase All; say the whole line. Erase Scripture; say it again. Erase is inspired; say it again. Erase by God; say it from memory. If they get stuck, supply the word warmly and repeat. No one is out.

SAY: Even without the words on the board, you remembered them! Now I'll say the first part, and you finish. All Scripture... [Children: is inspired by God.] Where is it? [Help them say: Second Timothy, chapter three, verse sixteen.]

DO: 38:00-40:00: Repeat with hand motions if useful: hands like an open book for Scripture, point upward for God. Give anyone who wants a turn a chance to lead the group, without making solo recitation a test.

SAY: We learned how to find a verse and remember it. Let's choose one small way to keep learning this week.

Minutes 40-45: challenge and closing

SAY: Find MY BIBLE CHALLENGE on your worksheet. This week, will you read your Bible one time, two times or three or more times? Circle one choice. One time is a good start. If you aren't reading yet, you can listen while a grown-up reads with you.

SAY: You could start with one of the verses we found today. Under One thing I learned today, write one thing you remember. You can write God loves us, God's Word guides me, or your own idea. If you'd rather tell me, I'll help you write it.

DO: Allow two minutes. Invite two children to share, without requiring everyone to speak. Return any classroom Bibles before dismissal; do not assume children can keep them.

SAY: Before we go, tell me our three clues for finding a verse. [Help: Book, chapter, verse.] And name our four Gospels. [Help: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.] Thank you for helping one another today.

SAY: Let's pray. God, thank You that Your Word teaches us to know, love, and follow You. Help us read it this week. Amen.

SAY: Take your worksheet home. Tell your grown-up: Ask me what a Bible Detective is. You can show them the verses and ask them to read one with you. See you next time!

When children ask: short answers you can read

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?: Many people wrote its books. God inspired them through His Holy Spirit. We know some writers' names, but not all of them.

DID GOD WRITE IT WITH A PENCIL?: People did the writing. God guided them. It didn't drop out of the sky as a finished book.

HOW OLD IS THE BIBLE?: It wasn't written all at once. The New Testament was written about two thousand years ago. The Old Testament writings are older. This printed copy may be new, but the writings are very old.

WHY DOES MINE SAY SOMETHING DIFFERENT?: The Bible was first written in ancient languages. Translators help us read it in our language. They sometimes choose different words. Let's look at the meaning together.

WHY DOES MINE SAY GOD-BREATHED?: That is another way of saying inspired by God. It tells us these writings come from God's guidance. It doesn't mean the pages are breathing.

WHY IS THERE MORE THAN ONE GOSPEL?: They all share the good news about Jesus. Each tells it in its own way and helps us see more of what He did and taught.

IS A GOSPEL WRITER THE SAME AS AN APOSTLE?: An apostle is someone sent out to share Jesus' good news. Matthew and John were among the twelve apostles. Mark and Luke were not among the twelve, but the Church honors all four as Gospel writers.

IS JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?: The Old Testament comes before Jesus' birth into the world. Christians read it as preparing us for Him and pointing toward Him. Jesus is God's eternal Son; He did not begin to exist at His birth.

WHAT DOES PERISH MEAN?: It means to be lost or destroyed. John 3:16 points us toward the life God offers through Jesus. Today we're focusing on God's love and trusting Him.

DOES PRAYING MAKE WORRY GO AWAY RIGHT AWAY?: Sometimes we still feel worried. We can keep praying and ask a trusted grown-up for help. God loves us when we're worried too.

A QUESTION YOU CANNOT ANSWER: That's a thoughtful question. I don't know the answer yet, and I don't want to guess. Let's write it down and ask our priest or another teacher together.

Your original quick guide

The same supplies, order and timing are below for quick reference. The read-aloud script above is the expanded version to use while teaching.

The plan at a glance

1	Arrival and opening prayer Settle in, hand out Bibles, short prayer.	5 min
2	The big idea The Bible is God's Word. It teaches me how to know, love, and follow God.	5 min
3	Two parts of the Bible Old Testament before Jesus, New Testament after Jesus came. Worksheet section 1.	5 min
4	Bible Detective Find John 3:16, Psalm 119:105, and 2 Timothy 3:16 in real Bibles. Worksheet section 2.	10 min
5	The Gospel Challenge Circle the 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Worksheet section 3.	5 min
6	What would Jesus want me to do? Match each problem to a loving choice. Worksheet section 4.	5 min
7	Memory verse game 2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is inspired by God. Two-minute game.	5 min
8	Closing prayer and take-home challenge Pray, set the week's reading challenge, one thing I learned.	5 min

Bring with you

- One Bible per child (same translation if you can; any translation works)
- The Lesson 2 worksheet and a pencil for each child
- Sticky notes or page flags, about 3 per child, for the Bible Detective section
- A whiteboard or big sheet of paper and a marker for the memory verse
- Your own Bible with the three detective verses flagged ahead of time

Opening, first 10 minutes

Minutes 0–5: Arrival and opening prayer

As kids come in, hand each one a Bible and their worksheet. Let them write their name on it right away. When everyone is seated, pray something short and simple, and let the prayer teach the lesson's big idea without announcing it.

“Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible. Thank You that it is Your Word to us. Help us learn from it today. Amen.”

Minutes 5–10: The big idea

Hold up a Bible and read the big idea from the worksheet, slowly, twice: “The Bible is God’s Word. It teaches me how to know, love, and follow God.” Then ask: “Who wrote the Bible?” Take a few answers, then land it: God inspired people through His Holy Spirit to write it, so it is God’s Word to us, and today we are going to learn how to use it ourselves.

Two parts of the Bible, minutes 10–15

Five minutes is plenty. Open a Bible and show them the two parts physically: hold the Old Testament in one hand and the New Testament in the other.

1. Say: the Old Testament is the big first part. It is about God’s people before Jesus came. Have the kids say ‘before Jesus’ out loud.
2. Say: the New Testament is the smaller second part. It is about Jesus and His church, after Jesus came. Have them say ‘after Jesus came’ out loud.
3. Have everyone point to the already printed labels in worksheet section 1 while you walk around. Fast finishers can flip to the table of contents at the front of their Bible and spot where the New Testament starts.

Bible Detective, minutes 15–25

This is the heart of the lesson, and it runs on real Bibles. Before you start, give every child 3 sticky notes. The rule: when you find a verse, put a sticky note on the page, then write one thing you learned on your worksheet. The sticky notes turn “I found it” into something you can see from across the room, and they save each page so nobody loses their spot.

How to find a verse, teach it out loud: book, big number, little number

1. Find the book. Use the table of contents at the very front of the Bible. Say it like a detective: ‘First clue: the book.’
2. Find the chapter. That is the big number. ‘John 3, the big 3.’
3. Find the verse. That is the little number. ‘Verse 16, the little 16.’

4. Sticky note goes in. Read the verse together, then they write one thing they learned.

The three verses, with hints for kids who get stuck – do them in this order

- **John 3:16.** Hint: John is usually the fourth book of the New Testament. Use the table of contents in each child's edition; let kids who find it quickly be helpers.
- **Psalms 119:105.** Hint: open the Bible right in the middle and you land very close to Psalms. Kids love this trick.
- **2 Timothy 3:16.** Hint: near the back of the New Testament, Paul's letters to Timothy. It is also the memory verse, so finding it now sets up the game later.

Pairing readers with non-readers. Pair each confident reader with a younger or newer reader. The reader finds and reads the verse out loud. The partner holds the Bible, puts the sticky note in, and says the verse back. Both contribute to their own worksheet; a helper can write down what a non-reader says. Nobody watches, everybody has a job.

When a child cannot find a verse. Do not find it for them right away. First walk them to the table of contents and ask which clue they are on: book, chapter, or verse. If they are still stuck after a minute, open their Bible to the book yourself and let them find the chapter and verse. The win is finding the little number, and every child can do that part.

Gospel Challenge, minutes 25–30

Ask: "Who can tell me what a Gospel is?" Land it simply: the Gospels are the four books that tell us about Jesus. Then have the kids race, gently, to circle the 4 Gospels on the worksheet out of the eight book names listed.

The answer: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, and Acts are the decoys.

Stretch it for fast finishers: have them find each Gospel in their real Bible and tell you what order they come in. That quietly rehearses the detective skill they just learned.

What would Jesus want me to do?, minutes 30–35

Read each problem out loud and let the kids call out the loving choice before they draw the line on worksheet section 4. Saying it first and drawing it second keeps the non-readers fully in the game.

- My friend is alone. Invite them to play.
- Someone is mean to me. Stay calm and choose kindness.
- I am worried. Pray and trust God.

If the room is chatty, ask one follow-up per line: “What would that look like at school this week?” One real example from a kid teaches more than three from you.

Memory verse, minutes 35–40

Write 2 Timothy 3:16 on the board: “All Scripture is inspired by God.” Then run the two-minute erase game.

- 1. Everyone reads it together, twice, loud.
- 2. Erase one word. Say it again together. Erase another word. Say it again.
- 3. Keep going until the board is empty and the kids are saying it from memory. For non-readers, say it in a call-and-response rhythm: you say ‘All Scripture,’ they answer ‘is inspired by God.’

Closing, minutes 40–45

Have each child circle their Bible challenge for the week on the worksheet: read my Bible 1 time, 2 times, or 3 or more times. Let them pick honestly; 1 time is a great start and saying so out loud keeps the challenge inviting. Each child fills in one thing they learned today, or tells it to you to write down.

“God, thank You that Your Word teaches us to know, love, and follow You. Help us read it this week. Amen.”

Send them off with one line for their parents: “Ask me what a Bible Detective is.”

If the clock moves

Running 10 minutes short	Do the Gospel Challenge as a take-home, merge section 4 into one spoken round instead of drawing lines, and play only one round of the erase game. Never cut Bible Detective; it is the lesson.
Extra time available	Add a second erase round with the reference erased too, let each child share their one thing I learned out loud, or hunt one bonus verse together, such as Psalm 23:1.
Kids arrive late	Hand them a Bible and a sticky note and slide them into a detective pair. They can do sections 1 and 3 at home.
Wide age spread	Older kids get the stretch tasks: order the Gospels, find the bonus verse, help a partner. Younger kids win by placing sticky notes and saying verses back.

Teacher source notes

The worksheet is unchanged. The explanations use Orthodox teaching in simple language; the extra questions are optional, not another lesson to fit into 45 minutes. Read full verses from the classroom Bible, so its wording stays consistent.

- OCA: God's Word and inspiration – oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/doctrine-scripture/the-bible/word-of-god
- OCA: human authorship – oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/doctrine-scripture/the-bible/authorship
- OCA: the four Gospels and their writers – oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/doctrine-scripture/new-testament/gospels
- OCA: the Old Testament's story – oca.org/the-hub/old-testament-studies/the-story-of-our-life-with-god-an-introduction-to-the-old-testament
- OCA: Greek and Hebrew Psalm numbering – oca.org/liturgics/outlines/septuagint-numbering-psalms
- John 3:16 (RSV) – biblegateway.com
- Psalm 119:105, translation comparison – biblegateway.com
- 2 Timothy 3:16 (RSVCE) – biblegateway.com

Worksheet content is unchanged; this is the teacher's companion. Sunday school, week 3. Read-aloud script and quick guide for a 45-minute class.