

Why

Do We Church?

Why do we
read the
Bible?

Why do
we pray?

**Finding
Answers For
Following Jesus**

Why do we
need Jesus?

Why do we
worship?

Why do we
go to church?

1ST-5TH GRADE

Day 1: Why do We Read the Bible?

Why do We Read the Bible?

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will teach the kids that we read the Bible in order to learn the truth about God and thus strengthen our walk with the Lord.

Key Verses

Psalm 1; Matthew 4:1-11—Main Teaching Passage

Memory Verse - Matthew 4:4

"But He answered and said, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Hook

Ask the class what makes Christians different from unbelievers. Make a list of things that Christians do but non-Christians don't. Answers should include things like read the Bible, pray, go to Church, believe in Jesus, etc. Then ask them why Christians do these things.

There are many things Christians do that make them different from the rest of the world. This week, we will be looking at why we do these things. Today, our focus is on why Christians read the Bible.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

There are many reasons why Christians read the Bible, but one of the most basic yet important reasons is that it teaches us the truth about God in order to strengthen our relationship with Him. In Psalm 1, David compares reading the Bible to a tree. A Christian who spends time in God's Word every day, morning and night, will have a strong, healthy walk with the Lord, like a tree planted by water that grows fruit and is full of leaves. By reading the Scripture, we will know the truth about God, which will draw us closer to Him. However, those who are ungodly and listen to unbelievers rather than God's Word are not like that. They are more like chaff (dead wheat husks) blowing in the wind.

When we read Scripture, we will know the truth about God and be prepared when Satan tries to tempt us with lies about Him. This can be seen in Matthew 4:1-11, when Satan tried to tempt Jesus. Notice that when Satan lied to Jesus, Jesus didn't respond by calling down fire from heaven or summoning His angels to destroy him. He used the Bible to defeat the Devil. All three of Jesus' responses to Satan's lies came from Scripture and start with the phrase, "It is written." Look in particular at Jesus' answer to the first temptation: "Man shall not live by bread alone, *but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*" In other words, there is something in life more important even than the food that we eat: God's Word. Bread may feed our physical bodies, but Scripture nourishes us with the truth of who God is, what He has done, and how we can please Him. By knowing this truth, we are strengthened in our walk with the Lord and able to live for Him and identify any lies or temptations Satan might try to use against us.

LOOK

Think about your best friend or a close family member. What kind of things do they like? What do they dislike? What makes them happy? In any good relationship, it's important to know these things, and we learn them through communication. You may talk to, call, or communicate in other ways with that person so that you can learn more about them, and that strengthens your relationship with them. The same is true of God. In order to have a strong relationship with God, you have to get to know Him. You need to learn what He likes, what He dislikes, and how He wants you to live. This week, we are going to be learning about the different things Christians do in order to have a strong relationship with the Lord. Today, we will look at why we read the Bible.

For the most part, God doesn't communicate to us by speaking in a voice you can hear. He doesn't call us on the phone, send text messages, or write emails. But He has given us something to help us get to know Him: the Bible. The Bible is God's Word, His message for human beings written

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

down so that we can read and understand it. In it, God teaches us the truth about everything we need to know, including who He is, who we are, what the world is like, what He has done, and how we should live. But the Bible is more than just a textbook with information about everything. When we read the Bible, God meets with us and reveals Himself to us. The more we read it, the more we know Him and the stronger our relationship with Him gets. Christians read God's Word so that we can know the truth and get to know God more. As a result of that, we come to love Him more and discover how God wants us to live and act.

The truth of God's Word is especially important because Satan has filled the world with lies. Just as he lied to Jesus, he lies to us about who God is and what He is like. He lies about where the world came from, what people should do, and what's right and wrong. The only sure source of truth, the only place we can go where the answers we find are always true, is God's Word. If you want to know the truth, if you want your relationship with God to be strong and healthy, like the tree planted by water in Psalm 1, then you need to be in the Word. That's more than just once a week at church. Psalm 1:2 says that on God's Word, the blessed man "meditates day and night." So if you want to grow in your walk with the Lord, the answer is simple: read God's Word. Spend time in the Scripture every day, and God will meet with you.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Matthew 4:4.

Review the lesson by asking the kids how Jesus responded to Satan's lies. Ask why it's important for Christians to read the Bible and encourage the kids to read God's Word with their families.

Pray: Thank the Lord for speaking to us in His Word. Ask Him to help us grow in our knowledge of and love for Him as we read the Scripture.

Parent Question: Why do Christians read the Bible?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on 1 Corinthians 12 by David Guzik

THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WAY OF THE UNGODLY

A. The way of the righteous.

1. ([Psa 1:1](#)) What the righteous man does *not* do.

Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

a. **Blessed is the man:** **Blessed** translates the Hebrew word "*esher*," which has the idea of happiness or contentment. *Esher* comes from the Hebrew word *ashar*, which in its root means "to be straight" or "to be right." **Blessed is the man** speaks of the happiness, the blessedness, the contentment in the life of the man or woman who is right or "straight" with God. The righteous man will be a **blessed** man, a happy man.

i. "*Blessed* means supremely happy or fulfilled. In fact, in Hebrew the word is actually a plural, which denotes either a multiplicity or blessings or an intensification of them." (Boice)

ii. "It is not 'Blessed is the king, blessed is the scholar, blessed is the rich,' but, 'Blessed is the man.' This blessedness is as attainable by the poor, the forgotten and the obscure, as by those whose names figure in history, and are trumpeted by fame." (Spurgeon)

b. **Walks not ... nor stands ... nor sits:** The blessed man does *not* do certain things. There is a way he will *not* walk, a path he will *not* stand in, and a seat he will *not* sit in.

i. We can say these speak of *thinking, behaving, and belonging*. The righteous man and the ungodly man are different in how they *think*, how they *behave*, and to whom they *belong*.

ii. Others have also seen in this a progression of sin. "The great lesson to be learned from the whole is, sin is *progressive*; one evil propensity or act leads to another. He who acts by *bad counsel* may soon do *evil deeds*; and he who abandons himself to *evil doings* may end his life in *total apostasy* from God." (Clarke)

c. **Walks not in the counsel of the ungodly:** The ungodly have **counsel**, and the righteous man will not walk in it. With all the advice that comes to us, from so many different sources, the righteous man knows how to stay away from the **counsel of the ungodly**.

i. First, it means the righteous man knows how to *discern* the **counsel of the ungodly**. Many fail at this point. They do not even consider if **counsel** is godly or **ungodly**. They hear advice, or theories about their problems, and they find themselves agreeing or disagreeing without considering, "Is this godly or ungodly counsel."

ii. The righteous man is also discerning enough to know the **counsel of the ungodly** can come from one's own self. Our own conscience, our own mind, our own heart, can give us ungodly counsel.

iii. The righteous man knows where to find completely godly counsel: *Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors.* ([Psalm 119:24](#)) God's Word is always the best counselor, and godly counselors will always bring the truth of God's Word to help someone who wants counseling.

d. **Nor stands in the path of sinners:** Sinners have a **path** where they stand, and the righteous man knows he does not belong on that path. **Path** speaks of a way, a road, a direction, and the righteous man is not traveling in the same direction as sinners.

i. The righteous man is not afraid to take a less-traveled road, because he knows it leads to blessing, happiness, and eternal life. *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.* ([Matthew 7:13](#))

ii. The righteous can have the confidence of [Psalm 16:11](#): *You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.* God has a path, and it is a good road to take.

e. **Nor sits in the seat of the scornful:** The scornful love to sit and criticize the people of God and the things of God. The righteous man will not sit in that **seat!**

i. When others are putting down Christians, it is easy to sit with them and criticize them. It is easy because there are many things to criticize among Christians. But it is wrong, because we are then sitting **in the seat of the scornful.**

ii. Instead, we should be proud to follow Jesus Christ. "Be out-and-out for him; unfurl your colours, never hide them, but nail them to the mast, and say to all who ridicule the saints, 'If you have any ill words for the followers of Christ, pour them out upon me ... but know this - ye shall hear it whether you like it or not, - "I love Christ."'" (Spurgeon)

2. ([Psa 1:2](#)) What the righteous man *does*.

**But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.**

a. **His delight is in the law of the LORD:** Throughout the Psalms, the phrase **law of the LORD** is used to describe God's entire word, not only the "law" portion of the first five books of the Bible. The righteous man is delighted with the word of God!

i. What makes you happy? What gets you excited? This is a good way to see what is important to you. If personal pleasure is the only thing that makes you happy, then you are a selfish, self-centered person. If being with your family or friends delights you, that can be better, but it still falls short. The righteous man finds **his delight ... in the law of the LORD.**

ii. Luther said that he could not live in paradise without the word of God, but he could live well enough in hell with it.

iii. "Man must have some delight, some supreme pleasure. His heart was never meant to be a vacuum. If not filled with the best things, it will be filled with the unworthy and disappointing." (Spurgeon)

iv. If a person delights in something, you don't have to beg them to do it or to like it. They will do it all by themselves. You can measure your **delight** for the word of God by how much you hunger for it.

b. **In His law he meditates day and night:** The righteous man *ponders* the word of God. He does not just hear it and forget it, he *thinks* about it. Christians should meditate on God's word!

i. In eastern meditation, the goal is to *empty* the mind. This is dangerous, because an empty mind may present an open invitation to deception or a demonic spirit. But in Christian meditation, the goal is to *fill* your mind with the word of God. This can be done by carefully thinking about each word and phrase, and applying it one's self and praying it back to the Lord.

ii. "Meditation chews the cud, and gets the sweetness and nutritive virtue of the Word into the heart and life: this is the way the godly bring forth much fruit." (Ashwood, cited by Spurgeon)

iii. Many lack because they only *read* and do not *meditate*. "It is not only reading that does us good; but the soul inwardly feeding an it, and digesting it. A preacher once told me that he had read the Bible through twenty times on his knees and had never found the doctrine of election there. Very likely not. It is a most uncomfortable position in which to read. If he had sat in an easy chair he would have been better able to understand it." (Spurgeon)

iv. The righteous man only has God's word on his mind two times a day: **day and night**. That about covers it all!

3. ([Psa 1:3](#)) How the righteous man is blessed.

He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

a. **He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water**: A tree by a river has a continual source of water. It will never wither away, because it is always getting what it needs. If we are constantly needy, it may be worth examining if we are **planted by the rivers of water** or not.

i. This would also be a **tree** that is strong and stable, sinking down deep roots. The life of the righteous man is marked by strength and stability.

b. **That brings forth its fruit in its season**: The righteous man bears fruit, such as the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). The fruit comes naturally from this tree, because it is **planted by the rivers of water**. It is abiding in a life-source, as Jesus spoke of bearing fruit in [John 15:5](#) as we abide in Him. Fruit also has a **season**. Some get discouraged when they begin to walk as a righteous man, and fruit is not immediately evident. They need to wait until they bring forth **fruit in its season**.

i. "There are no barren trees in God's orchard, and yet they may have their fits of barrenness, as an apple tree sometimes hath; but they will reflourish with advantage." (Trapp)

c. **Whose leaf also shall not wither**: Brown, dead, withered leaves are signs of death and dryness. The righteous man does not have these signs of death and dryness; his "leaves" are green and alive.

d. **And whatever he does shall prosper**: It isn't that the righteous man has a "Midas Touch," and everything he does makes him rich and comfortable. But in the life of the righteous man, God brings forth something good and wonderful out of everything. Even tough circumstances bring forth something that **shall prosper**.

B. The way of the ungodly.

1. ([Psa 1:4](#)) The dangerous place of the ungodly.

The ungodly *are not so*,

But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.

a. **The ungodly are not so:** Everything true about the righteous man (stable as a tree, continual life and nourishment, fruitful, alive, and prosperous), is **not so** regarding the **ungodly**.

i. It may often seem like the **ungodly** have these things, and sometimes it seems they have them more than the righteous. But it is **not so!** Any of these things are fleeting in the life of the **ungodly**; it can be said that they don't really have them at all.

b. **Are like the chaff which the wind drives away:** **Chaff** is the light "shell" around a kernel of grain, which must be stripped away before the kernel of grain can be ground into flour. **Chaff** was light enough that it could be separated from the grain by throwing a scoopful into the wind and letting the wind drive away the **chaff**. This is how unstable, how lacking in substance, the ungodly are.

i. Spurgeon on **chaff**: "Intrinsically worthless, dead, unserviceable, without substance, and easily carried away." There is a huge difference between a tree and **chaff**.

2. ([Psa 1:5](#)) The dangerous future of the ungodly.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

a. **Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment:** Because the **ungodly** have no "weight," they will be found lacking on the day of judgment. As it was said of King Belshazzar in the book of Daniel, *You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting* ([Daniel 5:27](#)).

b. **Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous:** This is true both in the future, because **sinners** will not share the same glorious future of the **righteous**. It is also true in the present, because **sinners** sense they do not belong **in the congregation of the righteous** if they insist on remaining **sinners**.

3. ([Psa 1:6](#)) Summary: The way of the righteous and the way of the ungodly.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

a. **The LORD knows the way of the righteous:** The righteous can have peace because a loving God in heaven knows their way, and will protect and preserve them.

i. "Or, as the Hebrew has it yet more fully, 'The Lord is *knowing* the way of the righteous.' He is constantly looking on their way, and though it may be often in mist and darkness, yet the Lord knoweth it." (Spurgeon)

b. **The way of the ungodly shall perish:** The way of the ungodly leads to destruction. They are on a broad path that may seem comfortable now, and gives them lots of company, but in the end they **shall perish**.

c. At least four times in the Book of Acts Christianity is called *the Way*. Certainly, it is the **way of the righteous**, not the **way of the ungodly**. Which way are you on?