Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- **Read:** Psalm 119:89-96; 2 Kings 22–23
- **In This Passage:** The psalmist celebrates the eternal nature of God’s Word. When the Israelites rediscover God’s Word after it was lost in the neglected Temple, they celebrate the truths that are contained in it. God’s Word is as true today as it was when it was first written.
- **Bible Point:** God’s Word is true forever.
- **Summary Verse:** “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Dig Deeper

- **You’ll Be Teaching:** God’s Word is true forever. It seems like a rite of passage for kids to believe no one could possibly understand what it’s like for them to be kids, because the world has changed so much since their parents were kids. There may be an element of truth to that! But in the midst of a world with ever-changing technology, culture, and communication, there are timeless things we all struggle with that the Bible addresses. As kids consider the “then and now” of the Bible, help them see those universal truths that stand forever.
- **Think About:** What’s a struggle you had when you were a kid? What’s a Bible story or verse that could help in that struggle?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to help your kids connect with the Bible in a fresh way.

Quick Tip

- While you may not be as old as Moses, your kids may think your childhood was closer to his time period than theirs! This is a great lesson for you to share some of the differences between your childhood and life now (pay phones, anyone?) and to reiterate that the Bible was relevant then and is still true now in your life.
This Lesson at a Glance

**OPENING**
Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

**Supplies**
- Bible
- extra-large Bible from Week 11
- sticky notes
- crayons

**Easy Prep**
- Ensure your extra large Bible is still open and sitting where kids can reach it. You will leave this in place through all three lessons on Psalm 119.
- Draw a circle on a sticky note.

**CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY**
Kids pretend to fix God's special house and make a special book.

**Supplies**
- Bible
- Legos in 3 colors (1 of each color per child)
- “Play Money” handout (3 bills per child) (download here)
- “Special Book” handout (1 per child) (download here)
- crayons

**Easy Prep**
- Group the Legos by color, and place each group of Legos in a different area of your room.
- Fold and staple each set of “Special Book” handouts together on the center fold line to make a book for each child. Once the book is folded, the cover will say “Special Words From God,” the second page will say “God forgives me,” the third page will say “God loves and cares for me,” and the fourth page will say “I obey God.” The fifth through eighth pages will be blank. Staple the folded seam to bind the pages together.

**DEEPER BIBLE**
Kids play True or False.

**Supplies**
- Bible

**OBJECT LESSON**
Kids test gravity.

**Supplies**
- balls
- craft feathers
- pompoms
- beanbags
- blocks
- inflated balloons
- sponges
- tissue paper

**Easy Prep**
- The supply list can be altered based on what you have; simply gather a mix of light and heavier supplies kids can drop without breaking them.

**HIGH-ENERGY GAME**
Kids hop around in hula hoops.

**Supplies**
- hula hoops (1 for every 3 kids)
- upbeat music

**Easy Prep**
- Set the hula hoops in a circle, as far apart as possible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>LOW-ENERGY GAME</strong></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kids search for the Bible.</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Supplies**
- Bibles (1 for every 5 kids)
- Upbeat music (optional)
- Music player (optional)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kids thank God for truths in the Bible.</strong></td>
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*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let’s keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.
Supplies
- Bible
- extra-large Bible from Week 11
- sticky notes
- crayons

Easy Prep
- Ensure your extra large Bible is still open and sitting where kids can reach it. You will leave this in place through all three lessons on Psalm 119.
- Draw a circle on a sticky note.

Welcome
- Thank kids for coming.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson
- Say: Today we'll find out **God's Word is true forever**. Hold up the circle, and trace it with your finger. **Forever means something never ends...like this circle.** Give each child a sticky note, and have kids each draw a circle on theirs. Allow time for kids to trace the circles with their fingers to show the circles never end.
- Say: **Let's add circles to this Bible, which is God's Word. The circles will remind us that God's Word is true forever.**
- Have kids stick their circles to the extra-large Bible.

Share
- Say: **Since we're talking about forever today, let's start by talking about something you wish would last forever.** Share about something you wish would last forever. It could be an object like an ice cream cone, or it could be an activity like sitting on the beach.
- In small groups, have kids share something they wish would last forever. Help them think of ideas, if needed, such as a toy that would never break or run out of battery life or a game they love to play.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize
Open a Bible, and say: **Those all sound like fun things to last forever. Today we'll learn about something that is true forever—the Bible. “God’s Word is true forever” means the Bible was real years and years ago, before even your great-grandma was born, and it’s the same today, too.**
- Pray, thanking **God for his Word, which is true forever.**
Supplies

- Bible
- Legos in 3 colors (1 of each color per child)
- “Play Money” handout (3 bills per child) (download [here](#))
- “Special Book” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- crayons

Easy Prep

- Group the Legos by color, and place each group of Legos in a different area of your room.
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  Once the book is folded, the cover will say “Special Words From God,” the second page will say “God forgives me,” the third page will say “God loves and cares for me,” and the fourth page will say “I obey God.” The fifth through eighth pages will be blank. Staple the folded seam to bind the pages together.

Talk About It

Say: Today we’ll find out God’s Word is true forever. Show the Bible. This is God’s words to us! God talks to all the people in the world now, a long time ago, and forever!

Give each child a booklet. Say: As we learn about God’s words in the Bible (show the Bible), we’ll make these special booklets to help us remember some important things God said to us in the Bible.

Hand out crayons, and invite kids to color the covers of their special booklets. As they color, invite them to share about times they’ve heard a true story from the Bible. They might tell about reading with their parents at home or about hearing from the Bible at church.

Build the Temple

Say: God’s Word is true forever. Remember, it will be true even when we grow up to be old grandmas and grandpas. It is true right now, and it was true so long ago, even before our great-great-grandmas were born. Let’s find out about one of God’s friends from a long, long time ago.

Open the Bible. Say: The Bible tells about a king named Josiah. He became king when he was only a kid like you! He was 8 years old. Invite kids to tell their ages, and then explain how close in age they are to when Josiah became king.

Say: Josiah was God’s friend, and he made lots of good choices. When he was a young man, Josiah decided he wanted to fix God’s special house. God’s special house was like our church. It’s a place God’s friends gathered to learn about God. Josiah told a worker in God’s special house to take some money. Give each child three bills of play money. He said, “Take this money and buy some stones and wood so we can get God’s special house fixed.”

Have kids find each of the three Lego colors around the room and exchange one bill of play money for one of each color. If there are fewer than three leaders in your class (including you), lead all kids to each color together. Have them return to their booklets after they’ve gotten all three Lego colors.

Say: When God’s friends had the wood and stones they needed, they got to work. Lead kids to work together to make structures using their Legos. Allow time for all the kids to add their three Legos to the group’s structure.

Color Scenes in a Booklet

Say: While they were working, they found a scroll. Roll up a “Special Book,” and show it to kids. Books long, long ago were rolled up like this and called scrolls. The scroll they found had God’s words on it! Hold up the Bible. It was like our Bible today but written on a scroll.

One of the workers in God’s house took the scroll to King Josiah. King Josiah listened to God’s words, and he was really sad. When he heard God’s words, he found out the people in his kingdom had been doing some bad things. They had not been acting like God’s friends.

Lead kids to open their booklets to the first page where it says “God forgives me.” Say: Josiah was
sorry and tore his clothes. God saw that Josiah wanted to change and follow God’s words, and he forgave Josiah.

Lead kids to draw a quick picture of Josiah being sad. Then point out and read aloud the sentence at the bottom of the page. Say: The Bible says when we are sorry for things we do wrong, God forgives us. The Bible also tells how God sent his special Son, Jesus, who died for us and made it so we can be forgiven for all the wrong choices we made! That’ll be true forever!

Lead kids in a quick prayer, inviting kids to say sorry to God for making wrong choices.

Say: Next Josiah decided to gather all the people and read God’s words to them! Lead kids to gather in a little closer, bringing their booklets.

Say: One thing that’s in the Bible that Josiah might’ve read is that God loves us and takes care of us! Have kids turn in their booklets to the second page where it says that. Point out the sentence, and then have kids draw quick pictures of the Bible. The fact that God loves us and cares for us will be true forever!

After Josiah read God’s words to the people, he made a promise in front of everyone to obey God’s words. That’s something the Bible tells us to do—it tells us to obey what God says in the Bible because it’s what’s best for us. Have kids turn in their booklets to the third page where it says “I obey God,” and have kids draw a quick picture of Josiah in front of a crowd.

Say: King Josiah was God’s friend, and he wanted to follow God! He learned how to do that from God’s words, and we can, too. The Bible, or God’s Word, is true forever. Today we found out a few things that God’s Word says. Lead kids in flipping through their booklets as you remind them of the three truths.

Say: There are even more true things God says to us in the Bible. Invite kids to share more things the Bible says, and have them draw pictures on the blank pages. Help kids with familiar ideas, such as Jesus being born at Christmas. If needed, helpers can share more ideas for kids to draw. If you have kids who frequently attend, you can also ask them to tell points they’ve learned about in past lessons.

Say: All the words in the Bible were true when Josiah was king years and years ago. And they’re true today, too. God’s Word is true forever.
Supplies

- Bible

Play True or False

Say: Today we’re learning that God's Word is true forever. The things God tells us in the Bible are true. Let’s play a game and think about what other things are true. I will say something like “The floor is down.” If you think that’s true, race to this side of the room. Point to one side of your space. If you think it’s not true, race to that side of the room. Point to the other side. Give kids a moment to move to one side or the other for the statement “The floor is down.”

Say: Great job! Now let's keep going.

Say the following statements, encouraging kids to move to one side of the room or the other after each one. Remind kids which side is for true and which is for false as necessary.

- The sky is up.
- Ants are tall.
- Water is wet.
- It is [name a season].
- Dogs bark.
- It is [day or night, whichever is not currently true].
- Fish fly in the sky.
- God’s Word is true forever.

Talk About What’s True

Say: Some things I said in our game were definitely not true, like “Fish fly in the sky.” That’s just silly! Some things were definitely true, like “The sky is up.”

Ask: • What's something you know is definitely true? If kids have trouble getting started, make some obviously true statements like “The table is hard” or “That is a door.”

Say: Some things may be true sometimes but not all the time. It is [day or night] right now—that’s true. But it won’t be [later or tomorrow morning]. The Bible isn’t like that. God promises that his words will never change. Listen to this! Read aloud Isaiah 40:8.

Say: The words God put in the Bible are always true. They were true a long time ago, and they will still be true in 100 years! We can always trust that the Bible is true. God's Word is true forever. Lead kids to pray and thank God for the Bible.
Supplies
- balls
- craft feathers
- pompoms
- beanbags
- blocks
- inflated balloons
- sponges
- tissue paper

Easy Prep
- The supply list can be altered based on what you have; simply gather a mix of light and heavier supplies kids can drop without breaking them.

Observe Consistent Effects of Gravity
Say: Today we’re learning God’s Word is true forever. That means God’s Word is never wrong and we can always believe what God’s Word tells us. God’s Word, or the Bible, never changes! Let’s do something to help us think about that.
- Form small, leader-led groups.
- Groups can choose a few objects to experiment with first.
- Group members take turns dropping their supplies from as high as their arms can reach or can even stand on a chair if spotted by an adult or teen helper.
- Guide groups to guess about each item based on its weight and other features that might make it fall to the ground quickly or slowly, or not at all.
- After groups have experimented with the supplies they chose, have groups trade supplies for another round.
- Trade supplies one more time for a final round.

Talk About It
Ask:
- How did the supplies you tested fall differently?
- What made some supplies seem like they might float away?
Say: When we dropped each thing, we knew it would fall to the ground because of gravity. Some of the supplies were lighter and fell more slowly than the heavier supplies, but everything fell because that’s how God made our world. Like that, the Bible never, ever changes. It is always and forever true; God’s Word is true forever.
Supplies

- hula hoops (1 for every 3 kids)
- upbeat music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Set the hula hoops in a circle, as far apart as possible.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating songs from today’s lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album here.

Talk About Forever

Say: Forever is a long time. Sometimes we say something takes forever.

Share an example of something you may have felt took forever, like the time it took for something you ordered on the internet to arrive or the time it took a friend to get there when your car broke down.

Ask: Tell me about something that seemed to take forever. Kids may say the wait until Christmas, the drive to Grandma’s, or the food at a restaurant seemed to take forever.

Play a Forever Game

Say: Lots of things feel like they take a long time, but they eventually have an end. Forever means there’s no end. Let’s play a game to see what that’s like.

- Have kids spread out around the room.
- Turn on music, and encourage kids to hop from one hula hoop to the next. (There will be space between the hula hoops, so they won’t always be inside one.)
- Stop the music and count to three while kids run to stand in a hula hoop.
- After everyone has made it to a hula hoop, start the music again.
- Continue playing as time allows, stopping the music periodically so kids can find a hoop.

Say: The circle in our game didn’t have a beginning or an end. We could keep going around it forever. God’s Word is true forever. The Bible was true before us, it’s true now, and it will be true years and years from now. We can always trust it.
LOW-ENERGY GAME
Find It!

Supplies
- Bibles (1 for every 5 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip
- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album here.

Share About Finding Something
Say: Sometimes we lose something and can't find it.
Share about something you lost and had to find. Maybe it was your keys, your phone, or a favorite shirt.
Ask: • Tell me about something you found that was lost. Kids may say their teddy bear, their shoes, or their favorite toy.

Find the Bible
Say: Today we heard about some people who found the Bible. It had gotten lost, but they found it! Let's play a game and pretend the Bible is lost. Then we can go find it.
- Give each Bible to a willing child.
- Encourage kids to cover their eyes while kids with Bibles hide them somewhere in the room.
- After all the Bibles are hidden, encourage kids to find them, saying: We need the Bible. Let's find it!
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids search.
- After all the Bibles have been found, choose new kids to hide them, and begin again.
- Continue as time allows.

Say: We don't ever want to lose the Bible. The Bible is filled with God's true words for us. It helps us make good choices and know God better. We can trust it because God's Word is true forever. It never changes.
Thank God
Have kids sit in leader-led groups of five or six. Say: Today we learned God’s Word is true forever.
Ask: • What are some things you learned from the Bible today?
Say: Let’s thank God for those things now. Lead kids in a short prayer, inviting them to thank God for things they shared about in the previous question.

Close in Prayer
Say: Wow, God gave us some important truths that were true years and years ago and are true today, too! We learned some of the things in God’s Word, the Bible, but there are so many more that we can learn! Let’s ask God to help us learn more about him through the Bible, which is true forever! Lead kids in a brief prayer.
Thank kids for coming, and invite them to come back next week.