THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

**CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON**

**DATE**: September 11, 2016

**SUBJECT**: **THE BIBLE**

**AIM:** To give the children a basic understanding of the Bible as the word of God and of the general contents of the Bible.

**SCRIPTURES:** Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:21; Romans 15:4; Revelation 22:18, 19

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Isaiah 40:8 (The grass withers and the flower fades, But the word of our God will stand forever.); 2 Timothy 3:15, 16, 17 (15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.); 2 Peter 1:21 (For no prophecy was ever borne by the will of man, but men spoke from God while being borne by the Holy Spirit.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS**: 62 (All Scripture is God-Breathed); 65 (God’s Word); 66 (God’s Word in My Heart); 68 (The Word of God); 69 (Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart); 70 (Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet); 9410 *Bible Story Songs—The Bible Song #10* (I Believe the Promises of God); 9411 *BSS The Bible Song #11* (In All the World There’s Just One Book); 9412 *BSS The Bible Song #12* (Psalm 119 Declares); 9409 *BSS The Bible Song #9* (Oh, the Grass Will Wither And the Flower Fade); 9421 *BSS The Bible Song #21* (I’ve Got the Living Word)

**CRAFT SUGGESTION:** A paper treasure box, either flat or 3-D, that opens to reveal a picture of a Bible inside. The memory verse for that week can also be pasted inside.

**APPROACH:** Show a variety of books to the children and ask which are Bibles. (Make sure some of the non-Bibles have black covers and some of the Bibles have a different color cover. Sometimes young children think any book with a black cover is a Bible.) This is to start a conversation, find out what they know and to make them receptive to know more.

**CONTENT:**

*Note to teachers:* Spend time looking through the Bible and show the children different pages, the table of contents, red letters, etc. as you explain.

**The Bible is the Word of God.** The Bible is different from any other book in the whole world. That is because it is God’s Word. The Bible tells us that although different people wrote down the words of the Bible, God told them what to write. Do you know the names of some of the people who wrote down the words of the Bible? (Let the children look through the Bible and notice the names of some of the books—Joshua, Daniel, etc.). Some books named with a person’s name, however, were not written by that person, such as the books of Esther and Ruth.

Do you know how many people God used to write down the Bible? Approximately forty different writers wrote the Bible over a time period of nearly 1600 years! That is a long time and a lot of people used to write one book. If you all wrote different parts of a book and did not know each other and did not even live in the same time period, would the book make sense? No! But the Bible makes sense because it really is authored by one Person—God.

**The Old Testament and the New Testament.** The Bible is divided into two main parts—The Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the word of the prophets under God’s command, written before the birth of the Lord Jesus. The New Testament is God’s speaking starting from the birth of the Lord Jesus and is written by the apostles. The New Testament also includes actual words spoken by the Lord Jesus. (A red-letter edition might be helpful to illustrate the Lord’s words in the New Testament.) Both the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God, including every word, every sentence, every iota and every tittle (Matthew 5:18). “Iota” and “tittle” refer to the tiniest strokes or markings in writing. No one should ever add or take away anything from the Holy Scriptures because it is God’s Word (Revelation 22:18-19).

**The Bible is for us.** The Bible was written for our instruction (Romans 15:4). It can help us to know about God and to know God. It also helps us to learn how to live a proper human life. It gives us endurance, encouragement and hope. The Word of God helps us in many ways, so it is very good and normal for a Christian to read the Bible every day.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:**

* **Treasure the Bible—treat the book with care and take advantage of having it so accessible.** There were times in history when people could get in trouble for having a Bible. Some people kept Bibles secretly anyway because the Bible was so precious to them. They had to hide the Bible in secret places. They kept it like a special treasure. In some countries today, people still could get in a lot of trouble or even get killed for having a Bible. In this country, we have Bibles readily available, yet sometimes we are sloppy and careless with the pages. If a Bible were to fall on the floor we might not even pick it up. We should have a respectful attitude towards the Word of God and take good care of our Bible. *For older children:* Today we can also store the words of the Bible on our phones and computers and access Bibles and references online. The more we read God’s Word with an open heart, the more we can know God and what God wants.
* **Memorize verses each week—you are storing up riches in your heart**. When people have so much it is easy to take those things for granted. We should treasure God’s Word. Take advantage of having the Bible available and memorize your verses each week. Memorizing the verses is a way to treasure the Word and keep it in our hearts.
* **Listen carefully to the lesson each week**. The stories we share each week are from the Bible. Take advantage of the opportunity of having someone who knows the Bible share the stories with you. Listening carefully is a way to treasure the Word.

References: *The Bible The Word of God, A Lesson Book – Level Six.* Based on and Compiled from the Writings of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee.