

Sunday School Lesson: God's Word Has One True Meaning

Age: 3-6 years old

Length: 25-35 minutes

Main truth: God wants us to listen carefully to His true Word and understand what He says.

Memory verse: "Thy word is truth." - John 17:17, KJV

Teacher's Big Idea

This essay has adult-level details, but for ages 3-6 the main lesson should focus on this simple truth: God's Word is true, and God wants us to listen carefully to what He says instead of making up our own meanings. The Bible is not a toy for us to twist. Jesus helps His people understand the Scriptures rightly. Children should learn to love God's Word, listen carefully, and ask for help understanding it.

Supplies

- A Bible
- One simple picture book
- One toy box with mixed items inside
- Two arrows cut from paper: one labeled "God said" and one labeled "I made it up"
- Coloring supplies
- A simple listening-ears craft template

Opening Question

Ask: "What should you do when someone gives you directions?"

Let children answer. Then say: "You should listen carefully. Today we will learn that God speaks in the Bible, and we should listen carefully to what God says."

Bible Time

Hold up the Bible and say: "The Bible is God's true Word. We do not make it say whatever we want. We listen to what God really said."

"Thy word is truth." - John 17:17, KJV

Explain: "God's Word is true. That means the Bible is not pretend and not confusing on purpose. God wants His people to hear, learn, and obey."

Repeat-after-me phrase: "God said it. We listen."

Simple Teaching

1. God Speaks in the Bible

Teacher say: "The Bible is God's Word. When we open the Bible, we are hearing what God said."

Child repeat: "God's Word is true."

2. We Should Not Make Up Meanings

Teacher say: "We do not take God's words and turn them into something else. We want to know what God really means."

Child repeat: "Listen to God."

3. Jesus Helps Us Understand

Teacher say: "Jesus helps His people understand the Scriptures. We can pray and ask for help to read the Bible the right way."

Child repeat: "Jesus helps us understand."

Object Lesson

Use the picture book and toy box.

Show the picture book and say: "If I read the words on the page, I should say what the words really say."

Then pull a toy from the box and pretend it is in the story even when it is not.

Say: "That would be silly. I would be adding my own idea."

Hold up the Bible and the paper arrows.

Point to "God said" and say: "This is the right way. We ask, 'What did God say?'"

Point to "I made it up" and say: "This is the wrong way. We do not make up our own meaning."

Movement Activity

- "Open God's Word." Open hands like a book.
- "Listen carefully." Cup a hand to the ear.
- "Read what God said." Point to the book.
- "Do not make it up." Shake head no.
- "Jesus helps us understand." Put hands together in prayer.
- "We obey God's Word." Nod yes.

Repeat once with the children.

Short Story Illustration

Mia's dad told her, "Please put your shoes by the door." Mia almost put them under the couch instead. Then she stopped and said, "No, I should listen to what Dad really said."

At church, Mia's teacher opened the Bible and said, "That is how we read God's Word too. We listen to what God really says. We do not make up our own meaning."

Mia smiled and whispered, "God said it. I will listen."

Discussion Questions

1. Is the Bible true or pretend? Expected answer: True.
2. Should we make up our own meaning for the Bible? Expected answer: No.
3. What should we ask when we read the Bible? Expected answer: What did God say?
4. Who helps us understand God's Word? Expected answer: Jesus / God helps us.
5. What should we do after we hear God's Word? Expected answer: Listen and obey.

Craft or Table Activity

Make "listening ears" headbands.

Give each child a simple headband with paper ears. Write: "Listen to God's Word." Let them decorate with tiny Bibles, hearts, and stars. Say: "These ears remind us to listen carefully when God speaks in the Bible."

Closing Prayer

Our Father in heaven, thank You for giving us Your true Word. Help us listen carefully, love the Bible, and understand what You say. Please keep us from making up our own way, and help us obey with glad hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Parent Take-Home Line

God's Word is true, so we should listen carefully to what God really says.