



Kids Club

Elementary Leader Guide

Mar.
Week 1

Mar. 2, 2025

Leader Info

Each week kids will learn about a few books of the Bible along with some simple hand motions to help them remember what each book is about. The goal is that by the end of the 12 weeks, kids will be able to say all 66 books of the Bible from memory and have a general idea of what each book is about.

Memory Verse:

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." - 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

Lesson 9: Dear Pastor

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Bottom Line: Paul wrote several letters encouraging the church to stay unified in Christ.

Objective: Kids will memorize the next 7 books: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

Summary: Paul wrote many letters to the churches, encouraging them to stay faithful to Jesus. We can learn a lot about following Christ through these letters.

Schedule:

20 minutes- Set out 2-4 rotations of seated activities for kids to play. Sit with them, play with them. Ask questions about their past week, pets, family, and other things that are important to them. This is important relation-building time!

10 minutes- Lesson intro and discussion (page 1)

10-15 minutes- Activities (page 2)

15-20 minutes- Games // Free play

MEMORY VERSE

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SUPPLIES: no supplies needed.

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

Choose four kids who think they know the verse. Line them up in the front of the room. Have the kids recite the memory verse, with each kid saying one word, starting left to right. When you get to the kid on the right, go back to the kid on the far left. Keep going until they get through the whole verse.

TEACHING TIME

BOTTOM LINE:

Paul wrote several letters encouraging the church to stay unified in Christ.

SAY:

"Have any of you ever noticed a funny, metal box out in front of your house? For some of you, it might be on the porch by the front door, but for most who live in houses, these metal boxes are usually perched on poles or housed in brick down by the street, right in front of your yard. These peculiar boxes are called... mailboxes, and they were designed to hold things called letters. Can you say that with me? Letters.

I'm being a bit silly, of course. I'm sure you all know what a mailbox is, and I'm sure most if not all of you know what letters are. Most of the letters you receive at home are probably business and personal items for your parents, but I bet a few of you have received and maybe even written a letter or two. Anyone?

People do not write letters like they used to. Email and text messages and social media have taken the place of most of the letter writing that happened in the past, but from time to time, people today still write letters to share stories and information or just spread a little love and encouragement.

The New Testament is filled with letters that were written by the early church leaders, most of them by Paul. You may remember Paul from his old name Saul. We learned his story last week. Paul became a missionary, and as Paul traveled the world, he wrote letters to the churches and people he met. Today, we're going to focus on seven letters he wrote to churches.

Paul focused his letters to the churches on teaching. He wanted to correct problems he heard in the church, he wanted to encourage those who were being persecuted, but most of all, he wanted to encourage the church to stay strong and unified in Christ, as he does in this passage from 1 Corinthians.



1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17

Main Point:

“The church in Corinth sounds a lot like many churches today. The church was divided, with many people saying, “Paul is our leader,” and others saying, “No, Apollo is our leader,” and so on and so on.

Paul reminded the Corinthians that though they heard the Good News of Jesus from different people, it’s not those people they need to follow. Jesus is our leader. Jesus is the Son of God, and we all need to be focused on Christ.

The letters to the churches are full of lessons like this. They teach Christians to beware of false teachers. They teach them to live godly lives. They remind them that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who died for us, and they encourage the church to stay strong in the faith.

Drive it Home:

“There are seven letters to churches that follow the book of Acts. Romans is the biggest, and some say the greatest of all Paul’s letters. This letter to the Roman church was written to share God’s plan of salvation for the world. It’s a powerful book full of truth that continues to challenge believers and non-believers today.

The next two books, First and Second Corinthians, were written to the church at Corinth. The first of these letters encouraged the new Christians to act like true followers of Christ, avoiding sin and loving others. In the second book, Paul praises the people for heeding his instructions and encourages them to continue living godly lives.

In the book of Galatians, Paul explains that we are saved by faith. Some people in Galatia had the mistaken idea that they could earn salvation, but Paul reminds them that Jesus paid the price for our sin for us, a price we could never pay.

Ephesians is the next letter. The most famous passage from this book is where Paul teaches us to put on the full armor of God. Paul uses the armor and weaponry of the Roman soldiers to explain how we can defend ourselves from temptation.

The letter to the Philippians is filled with thanks and encouragement. The Philippians were big supporters of Paul who, like Paul, were experiencing persecution for their faith. It’s an uplifting book that still encourages Christians today.

And finally, we come to Colossians. Like many of the letters, Colossians was written to correct some wrong beliefs and get the church back on track. Paul wanted all believers to be unified in Christ and in faith.”

HAND MOTIONS:

“Have any of you ever received a letter in the mail? Letters don’t come and go as much as they used to in the days before the Internet, but people still send one another messages, on paper, or electronically, to share information, stories, and encouragement, just as they did in the days of the early church.

Paul, one of the early church’s most important leaders, wrote many letters during his ministry. Some of these letters are collected in the Bible, and the first seven are all written to churches.



"The first letter was written to the Roman church. Rome was the capital of the world in those days, a powerful city with a grand army. Let's give a sharp military salute to help us remember Romans. The next two letters were sent to the church in Corinth and the Corinthians. Let's count from 1 to 2 on our fingers and then open our arms to make a big C for Corinthians.

Now bend your lower arm back into the C-shape to make a G for Galatians, the next letter in the New Testament written to the church at Galatia.

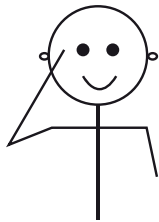
Ephesians is next, and Ephesians starts with an E. Take one hand, turn it sideways, and spread your middle three fingers into an E shape to remember the letter to the Ephesians.

Philippians comes next. This is a wonderful letter full of encouragement for God's church. Flip your hand from one side to the other to remember to "flip" to Philippians.

And finally, we come to Colossians. Let me see you drive a car like you are trying to avoid a collision.

Let's review the seven letters we learned today with their hand motions. Then let's go back and see if we can go through the New Testament up through Colossians."

Repeat the seven letters, then go back and review from Matthew through Colossians 2-3 times, then try going all the way from Genesis to Colossians to wrap up the lesson.



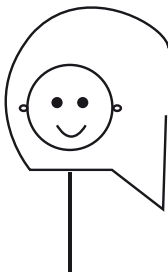
ROMANS

Salute



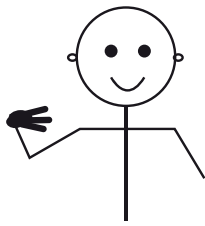
1 & 2 Corinthians

Count 1 and 2 on fingers, then make a big C as in YMCA



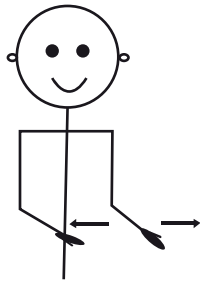
GALATIANS

Turn the big C into a G by bending in the lower arm



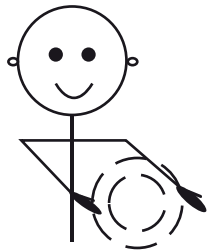
EPHESIANS

Hold 3 fingers sideways in an E shape



PHILIPPIANS

Flip your hands from palm up to palm down



COLOSSIANS

Hold both hands in front of you like you are steering a car to avoid a "collision."

ACTIVITIES

ICEBREAKER:

What's something you think is easier to accomplish when everyone works together?

This question prompts participants to think about the value of unity and teamwork, connecting to Paul's call for harmony in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17.

GAME: PUZZLE CHALLENGE

SUPPLIES: 3-4 different puzzles (no more than 36 pieces each)

1. **Set Up:** Mix up a few pieces from each puzzle into different puzzles.
2. **Divide into groups:** Divide kids into groups and pass out the puzzles.
3. **Switch Pieces:** Once kids start to struggle or notice the out of place or missing pieces, gently suggest or hint that other groups may have the pieces they need.
 - They'll quickly realize they must collaborate with other groups to swap pieces and complete their own.
4. **Debrief:** Discuss how unity and cooperation can resolve confusion and bring completion, much like Paul's appeal for unity in the church.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Ask the kids questions like, "How did it feel when you realized you needed help from other groups to finish your puzzle?" or "Why do you think God wants us to work together as a church, like the puzzle pieces coming together?"

REVIEW: KIND OF A BIG DEAL

SUPPLIES: **Books of the Bible Key Chain Cards(1 set/kid), metal binder rings (1/kid)**

PREP: Cut out the books of the bible sets so each kid has a set. Punch a hole in the top left corner of each card.

Each week, kids will add the books they are studying each week to their key chain. Make sure their names are on their keychain somewhere. They will leave it at church and take home at the end of the Books of the Bible Unit.

Add the books from today: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

Recite the books and practice the motions as kids add to their keychain. Have volunteers read the clues on the back of each card.



PRAYER:

SUPPLIES: small object (e.g., a ball or cross)

"Unity Prayer Circle" Prayer Activity

1. Have everyone stand or sit in a circle.
2. Pass a small object (e.g., a ball or cross) around the circle.
3. When someone receives the object, they say a one-sentence prayer asking God to help them or the group work together (e.g., "God, help me be kind when I disagree with my friends.").
4. After the object has gone around the circle, close with a group prayer thanking God for bringing everyone together.