

BIBLE BASICS



Get to know your Bible

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BIBLE BASICS

4

Lesson Title: Poetry

Scripture: Job 1-2, 38, 42; Psalm 23, 51, 139; 1 Kings 3:4-15; Proverbs 1:1-7; Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

Scripture Memory: All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. **It is useful for correcting faults** and teaching how to live right. 2 Timothy 3:16 (ICB)

Last week we talked about the History division of the Bible. We learned that the people of God wanted a king. That king was Saul and very early on he chose to do things his own way and not God's. The next king had a heart like God's and future kings were compared and contrasted to his obedience and faithfulness, even though he was far from perfect. What was his name? (David.) That same history of God's people tells us that after king David died, his son Solomon became king. These kings are a part of the History section of the Bible, but we will discover today that they are also a part of the next division: Poetry. Did you know that the Bible included poetry and that the Poetry division includes the first book of the Bible ever written? It is the book of Job. When you read the book of Job you don't immediately think of poetry, but listen to this. (Read Job 38:1-11) That may not sound like the kind of poetry we write to put in a greeting card, but it is still beautiful poetry, scientific poetry about the universe and believe it or not, we don't even know who wrote it!

We do know who wrote most of the other poetry in the Bible, though. Most of it was written by King David and his son, Solomon. We may be unsure about the author of the book of Job, but the book of Psalms was written by at least seven different people and families: David wrote half of the Psalms (73), Solomon wrote two and even Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Bible, wrote a Psalm, Psalm 90. King Solomon wrote all but two chapters in the book of Proverbs and he wrote all of Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.

The book of Job is the story of a faithful man and God's faithfulness to him, although it doesn't seem so at first. You see, the book of Job gives us insight into conversations in heaven. In two conversations, God brags about

Job's faithfulness. Satan says that Job is faithful only because of the blessings God has given. God gives Satan permission to take everything Job has and to even take his health. Job responds to his loss this way, "I was naked when I was born. And I will be naked when I die. The Lord gave these things to me. And he has taken them away. Praise the name of the Lord....Should we take only good things from God and not trouble?'...In all this Job did not sin. He did not blame God." (Job 1:21, 2:10, 1:22 ICB) Some friends came to see Job to comfort him in his sadness, but rather than helping they blamed him for having done something wrong. Then, God spoke and quieted everyone! Job responded one last time, "My ears had heard of you before. But now my eyes have seen you." (Job 42:5 ICB)

The book of Psalms is full of poems, or songs, of praise and sadness, fear and triumph. Many of the psalms remember their history and praise God because He is good and His mercy continues forever. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter and contains 176 verses. It is all about a love for God's Word. Psalm 23 is probably the most well known psalm. It begins, "The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need." (ICB) Psalm 139 even tells us that God knows everything, including what we were like **before** we were born! King David said, "You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old." (Psalm 139:15-16 ICB) That is pretty amazing, isn't it? A God who knows us like that has every right to use His word to show "people what is wrong in their lives" so that we can correct those faults. (2 Timothy 3:16 ICB)

To understand the book of Proverbs it helps to understand a little about King Solomon. Early in Solomon's reign, he offered a sacrifice to God. That same night God appeared to him in a dream. "God said, 'Ask for anything you want. I will give it to you.'" (1 Kings 3:5b) Solomon's request was for wisdom. He told God, "I ask that you give me wisdom. Then I can rule the people in the right way. Then I will know the difference between right and wrong. Without wisdom, it is impossible to rule this great people of yours." (1 Kings 3:9) Proverbs is a book full of wise sayings from the wisest man who ever lived. (1 Kings 3:12) This is how the book of Proverbs starts. (Read Proverbs 1:1-7.) And it ends with advice on what to look for in a wife!

The book of Ecclesiastes is in the Bible specifically to "show people what is wrong in their lives." (2 Timothy 3:16a) It shows us that that living our lives for ourselves is meaningless. It is the wisdom of King Solomon after trying to live the end of his life for himself, without God in mind. After it all King Solomon encouraged us to "honor and enjoy your Creator while you're still young...[because] eventually god will bring everything that we do out into the open and judge it according to its hidden intent, whether it's good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:1, 14 MSG)

The Song of Solomon is a very different kind of poem, also written by King Solomon. It is also known as the Song of Songs, the best of them all. It is a poem about the love between a husband and wife. It shows us that what God planned for a man and a woman from the beginning is possible and that any other plan for leads to failure.

How do you put this into practice in your life?

If "all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, and showing people what is wrong in their lives" and for "correcting faults" then the Poetry division of the Bible is full of examples for you and for me. Take Psalm 51. King David had sinned. When Nathan, the prophet, confronted him with that sin, King David realized his sin and turned to God with the words we find in this Psalm. Read through it. Had God shown you something that is wrong in your life? Is there anything that you need to turn away from and ask forgiveness for? Let's do that right now.

ACTIVITIES

- ⇒ **Memory Verse Activity:** Continue working on 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Write a few words each on index cards. Encourage your kids to order the cards. When each has had his turn, remove a few and practice saying the verse(s).
- ⇒ Take the opportunity to review each individual book within this main story. For example: Review the story of Job. Discuss how it fits in the Poetry section of the Bible and how that story “shows people what is wrong in their lives.”
- ⇒ Continue with your Bible Reading Journals. Don’t forget to discuss the questions: 1) What happened in this passage? 2) What does this passage teach about God? 3) What does this passage teach about my relationship with others? 4) What does God want me to do in response to this passage?
- ⇒ Continue practicing the books of the Bible. Print each book of the Bible on a separate clothespin. Practice arranging the clothespins in order. This can be done on a hanger or around the top of a plastic bucket.
- ⇒ Continue to play hopscotch with the books of the Bible. Make two playing fields, one for the Old Testament and one for the New Testament.
- ⇒ Continue to play with the Books of the Bible lap book.
- ⇒ Continue to play a cup game. Provide another set of cups (or two) and have a competition.
- ⇒ Make Trivia Flashcards from the lesson. Review with your students.
- ⇒ Write the books of the Bible on spoons. Place them in order into Styrofoam.
- ⇒ Play Spoons modified for play with a deck of cards of the Books of the Bible.

All Scripture
is inspired by God
and is useful for teaching
and for showing people what is
wrong in their lives.
It is useful for correcting faults
and teaching how to live right.
Using the Scriptures, the person
who serves God will be ready
and will have everything he needs
to do every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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2 Timothy 3:16-17

WORD SEARCH

C R O L L S A M S N T E S T A
G C B I Y J R S M L A S P U S
R S O N G O F S O L O M O N R
S R T T N B E E S T O O E O E
E O F L O L F R Y P W E M M Y
T N A E U G N I W O H S R O F
S I A I W A R O O E S P C L O
A C N R S E F R N T E R R O T
I L E L I L E S I R S T P S S
S E H I T I A H R Y H E M G I
E D I V A D G N I K O H L N H
L U F E S U H R T P Z R A I S
C S T S W K I N L S E R A K E
C N H E S B R E V O R P L L T
E I G N I T C E R R O C R O F

POETRY

JOB

PSALMS

PROVERBS

ECCLESIASTES

SONG OF SOLOMON

USEFUL

FOR CORRECTING

FAULTS

KING DAVID

KING SOLOMON

WORD SEARCH

C R O L L S A M S N T E S T A
 G C B I Y J R S M L A S P U S
 R S O N G O F S O L O M O N R
 S R T T N B E E S T O O E O E
 E O F L O L F R Y P W E M M Y
 T N A E U G N I W O H S R O F
 S I A I W A R O O E S P C L O
 A C N R S E F R N T E R R O T
 I L E L I L E S I R S T P S S
 S E H I T I A H R Y H E M G I
 E D I V A D G N I K O H L N H
 L U F E S U H R T P Z R A I S
 C S T S W K I N L S E R A K E
 C N H E S B R E V O R P L L T
 E I G N I T C E R R O C R O F

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