

SECTION
2.3

The Bible Should Be Studied Carefully



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Pictionary in the Dark

What You'll Need: Easels, whiteboards or pads of paper, markers

PREP: Ahead of time, ask a leader or a special guest to playact a substitute math teacher who teaches incorrectly. Instruct the leader or guest to play along with any controversy, insisting that his or her methods and answers are correct.

Write several simple addition, subtraction, and multiplication problems on the board, but do not solve the problems.

STEP 1: Have the substitute draw kids' attention to the problems on the board and begin to teach and solve the problems incorrectly. Continue the scenario for a couple of minutes, observing how kids react to the substitute's teaching.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- What did you think of the substitute's teaching methods?
- How do we know the problems and methods of solving the problem are not correct?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- When we focus on and commit to studying something, we really begin to learn about it. We can pick up details and can easily identify certain truths that stick out to us; we can also recognize errors.
- The same is true for God's Word. When we study it carefully, we begin to see key truths and understand concepts better. And the more we study it, the more we learn about it. When we really know and understand it ourselves, we can teach it correctly to someone else.
- We learn about the Bible by reading it, studying it, and changing our lives to match what it teaches.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that the Bible should be studied carefully.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Study Hard

What You'll Need: Table, tablecloth, school supplies, paper, pens or pencils

PREP: Collect fifteen common school supplies (e.g., pencils, pens, paper, book bag, markers, textbook, locker combination, lunchbox, crayons, sweatshirt, water bottle).

Place all the items on a table in front of the room.

STEP 1: As kids enter, encourage them to look at all the items on the table and to decide what they all have in common.

After kids have settled in their seats, give each kid a piece of paper and pen or pencil. Instruct them to number their paper from 1 to 15.

Give kids one minute to write down as many of the items that were on the table that they can remember. After one minute, hold up each item and see who wrote down the most items.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- What do the items have in common?
- What difficulties did you face in remembering the items you saw?
- What would have made it easier for you to be more successful in this activity?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- When we focus on and commit to studying something, we really begin to learn about it. We can pick up details and can easily identify certain truths that stick out to us; we can also recognize errors.

- The same is true for God's Word. When we study it carefully, we begin to see key truths and understand concepts better. And the more we study it, the more we learn about it. When we really know and understand it ourselves, we can teach it correctly to someone else.
- We learn about the Bible by reading it, studying it, and changing our lives to match what it teaches.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that the Bible should be studied carefully.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Panel of Experts

What You'll Need: Bible, (optional: computer and projector) (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Choose a portion of Scripture that would be familiar to your kids, such as the birth of Christ (Luke 2:4-14). Print a copy for each child. Ahead of time, ask several leaders to act as experts on the passage you chose, but to change facts or add details that are not in the biblical account.

Bookmark a Bible to 2 Timothy 2:15 and Acts 17:10.

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 2:15. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- Paul wanted a young Christian, Timothy, to do his best for God.
- If Timothy handled God's Word carefully, he could feel good about his teaching and not be ashamed.
- To carefully handle God's Word means to teach exactly what the Bible says.

STEP 2: Tell kids the Bible gives an example of people who followed the principles in 2 Timothy 2:15. Ask a volunteer to read Acts 17:10 out loud. Then share these key concepts:

- Paul and Silas went to the town of Berea and began telling the people about Jesus Christ.
- The Berean people listened to them eagerly and with excitement, but they also looked at the Old Testament Scriptures (which was their Bible at the time) every day to make sure that what the two men were saying was true. They compared what Paul and Silas said to the truth of God's Word.

(Optional: project it on a screen so everyone can read it.)

STEP 3: Give kids an opportunity to be Bereans. Pass out copies of the Luke 2 passage (or another passage you have chosen) and have volunteers read the passage aloud.

Tell kids to listen carefully as the leaders discuss the passage. Encourage them to follow along on their papers and listen carefully for any mistakes they hear. If they hear a mistake, encourage kids to stand. Call on a child who is standing to identify or correct the error. Continue for several minutes.

Share these key concepts:

- To rightly (correctly) handle God's Word, we must be IN the Word, reading as much as we can. God's Word teaches us who God is and what He has done.
- We should be faithful to study and memorize God's Word because this kind of work pleases God. And the more we study Scripture, the more we learn how God wants us to live (2 Timothy 2:15).
- We must be careful to study and teach God's Word exactly as it says. When we study and teach His Word correctly, we show we are approved by Him (1 Timothy 4:13, 15-16; 2 Timothy 2:15).

STEP 4: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 2: True or False?

What You'll Need: Bible, *T&T Grace in Action* handbook, paper, pen or pencil (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Create a list of true and false questions from the T&T student handbook or a Bible story that most of your kids should know, such as Noah's ark or the feeding of the 5,000. Bookmark a Bible to 2 Timothy 2:15 and Acts 17:10. Arrange the classroom chairs in a circle.

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 2:15. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- Paul wanted a young Christian, Timothy, to do his best for God.
- If Timothy handled God's Word carefully, he could feel good about his teaching and not be ashamed.
- To carefully handle God's Word means to teach exactly what the Bible says.

STEP 2: Ask a volunteer to read Acts 17:10. Briefly explain the background by sharing these key concepts:

- Paul and Silas went through the town of Berea and began telling people about Jesus Christ.
- At the time Paul wrote his letters, the New Testament books had not yet been written; Paul's letters to them had not yet been named as Scripture.
- These wise men and women, called Bereans, recognized the importance of making sure that the words that Paul and Silas shared with them were true and from God. These men faithfully searched the Old Testament (the only Bible they had at the time) to make sure their words were true.

STEP 3: Play a variation of Around the World. Have kids stand next to their chairs. Give the kid closest to you the first question from your list. If that person answers correctly, he or she remains standing, and each kid rotates to the right. If the individual answers incorrectly, he or she must take a seat and remain seated throughout the rest of the game. Continue the game until only one kid remains standing.

Share these key concepts:

- To rightly (correctly) handle God's Word, we must be IN the Word, reading as much as we can. God's Word teaches us who God is and what He has done.
- We should be faithful to study and memorize God's Word because this kind of work pleases God. And the more we study Scripture, the more we learn how God wants us to live (2 Timothy 2:15).
- We must be careful to study and teach God's Word exactly as it says. When we study and teach His Word correctly, we show we are approved by Him (1 Timothy 4:13, 15-16; 2 Timothy 2:15).

STEP 4: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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