



The Word Guides Us

LEADER'S Review

SUPPLIES Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*
- Letter to Parents (1 copy/family)

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs* (*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering*
- Supplies needed for Hearing the Word Activities #1 & 2

OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons* (*Found in the introduction section.*)

*These items will be needed every week.

Note this...

Before class, take time to learn the hand motions for this month's Confession of Faith. Also, there is pre-class prep needed for both Hearing the Word Activities.

We are called and challenged to get into God's Word, to know Him, and to be filled with His Spirit. But let's face it, the amount of time we actually read the Bible and remember what God has done is minimal compared to how our time is spent doing other things. We forget God's goodness and wonder why real joy and peace has left. Then we can't begin to understand why the things of this world are failing us, again.

We are really no different from the Israelites as they traveled through the desert. God knew they'd be swayed by the things they saw around them, and He wanted to help them keep their part of the covenant. What might have seemed like strict, overbearing directives were actually God's loving, merciful guidance.

He provided them with a means to remember Him: tying a ribbon on their wrists, talking about Him with everyone they saw, and wearing a small box containing scripture on their heads. He still pursued while providing a way out of the potential danger when they forgot His goodness.

God still guides and directs each and every step for us. He reveals Himself to us and changes our hearts to know and love Him more. He helped the Israelites keep their part of the covenant and He does the same for us. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us—helping us keep our part of the covenant. It's a bit mind-blowing when you think of that great love.

*When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,
And a light unto my path.*

—Verse from "Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet"

Call to Worship – “O Worship the King”

Sing the first verse of “O Worship the King” that we learned in Unit 1. (1 minute)

*O worship the King all glorious above,
O gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.*

Praise

Sing a worship song with the children. (5 minutes)

- “Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet”

Tithes and Offerings

Recite the following prayer before passing around the offering basket. (2 minutes)

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be:
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord from Thee.

(vs. 1 of “We Give Thee But Thine Own”)

Confession of Faith

Lead the children in confessing their faith by teaching the following verse with hand motions. (3 minutes)

“All Scripture is *breathed out by God* and profitable for *teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*, that the *man of God* may be *complete, equipped* for every *good work*” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Optional: Use the following gestures to learn the verse:

- **All Scripture** – open hands like a book
- **Breathed out by God** – blow out a big breath
- **Teaching, reproof, correction, and training** – mark with 1, 2, 3, 4 fingers
- **Righteousness** – big personal hug
- **Man** – draw hands down body
- **God** – point to heaven
- **Complete** – clasp hands tightly together
- **Equipped** – muscle arms
- **Good work** – thumbs up



Reading of the Word

Read Scripture. (1-2 minutes)

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

¹⁸ You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

¹⁹ You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ²⁰ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹ that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.



Prayer

Have a prayer of praise for our great God who gave us his Word. (1-2 minutes)

Dear Heavenly Father, truly Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Without it, we would be left in the darkness of sin. Thank You for giving us Your Word, the Bible, and for sending The Word, Jesus to be our light in the darkness of this world. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (5-8 minutes for lesson; 10-15 minutes for activities)

What did you do yesterday? *Let them share what they did, and share what you did.* What kind of things do you do during a school day?

ACTIVITY #1: Notecard Activity

Instructions: Write the following on cards to have a few kids come up and act out what is written on the card. Reuse them to make sure all get a chance.

- Brush teeth
- Eat lunch
- Ride in the car
- Ride your bike
- Get dressed
- Read a book
- Comb your hair
- Play with toys
- Swim in the pool
- Drink milk
- Do math problems
- Pray to God

Are these things you do every day? Those are all great things to do! Did you know God created us to do many different things? He created us to do chores and to take care of things. Do you remember how God's people traveled through the desert for 40 years? God was leading them to the Promised Land. As they traveled, it was possible they would forget

(Hearing the Word – Continued)

God's love for them. They needed to remember He kept His promises. Today we'll see how He did it.

Let's pray first: Dear God, would You remind us how much you have done for us and help us to praise You for all You will do—all because You love us? In Jesus's name we pray, Amen

After the Israelites, God's people, were slaves in Egypt for over 400 years, Pharaoh finally let them go after the ten plagues. The Israelites started to wander through the desert, and as they traveled, God knew they had a lot to do. He wanted them always to remember He had rescued them. God knew babies would be born who hadn't seen what He did in Egypt. God's people needed to teach their children what He had done, tell others of His ways, and to think about God's grace. So, He told the people to keep His Word in mind all the time. It was during the forty years of wandering through the desert God had Moses write what we know as the first five books of the Bible—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy— which we read from today.

Think about it. The Israelites were trekking through a land about the size of Texas. Each day, they would follow a large cloud in the sunlight and a pillar of fire at night. God was always directing them. Yet as they traveled, they were tempted to believe what other nations told them. So, God directed them, through His Word given to Moses, to talk about all God had done for them.

As they packed their tents, they would remind each other of God's work from leading their father Abraham to the Promised Land, to saving Jacob's family, to guiding Abraham and Jacob's descendants through the Red Sea.

As they collected manna, they were to be thankful for the food God gave them to eat. As they found water to drink, they would remember how God saved His people from the flood and gave the rainbow as a promise. As they walked in the desert, they would recall how God created them in His image—with a soul to glorify Him. (All of this was written down for them; God gave His Word to Moses to give to His people.)

God told them to think about His good work, His grace, and His love for them all day long. There wasn't a bit of time when they couldn't be reminded of what God had done for His people. He gave them a way even to wear His words too!

God knows that His children sometimes forget things. (Just like when we write ourselves a note to remember, the Israelites needed a reminder.) God wanted to help His people remember Him and His words—to remember what He had done for them. He told them to tie His words with a ribbon around their wrists and even on their foreheads, and to teach His words to their children.

God's people made boxes to wear that would hold a little bit of scripture so they would always have His words with them. Can you believe how specific God was when He directed the Israelites to remember His good works? He was serious. It shows how important it is for us to also remind each other what God has done.

(Hearing the Word – Continued)

God told His people to teach their children about Him. When they were sitting at home or walking on the road, they could talk about God. When they laid down to sleep and when they got up—all were good times to remember God’s good work.

The Israelites weren’t the only ones who needed to be reminded of all God has done; we do too. We can easily lose focus on what God is doing and where He is taking us, but if we spend time in the Word—reading it, studying it, memorizing it, learning it—God will fill us with joy, comfort, hope, and peace. Our obedience leads us to Him and to His good gifts.

You and I might not put a ribbon on our wrists or tie scripture to our foreheads, but we can see God’s work every day! When we see the trees and leaves, we see His good work. We see how He loves us through our family and friends. We can see His generosity as we eat our food. He gives us so many things to remind us of all He has done and will do. And we are blessed and encouraged to know God now because we have His Word in the Bible where we can look at it any time.

That’s just what God wants us to do—to know Him and worship Him. What a great God! He tells us what He wants us to do and He helps us do it. As we obey Him, He promises us the same thing as He promised the Israelites: we will be blessed when we follow Him.

ACTIVITY #1 - continued. *Let the children who didn’t get to act out the everyday actions before the lesson take turns acting them out now.*

ACTIVITY #2: Make a Tefillin *(Pronounced: tuh-fi-luhn. Also called phylacteries—meaning “to guard, protect.”)* Today we’re going to make tefillins. These are boxes containing scrolls of parchment (early paper) inscribed with verses from the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, and they are worn by observant Jews. The arm-tefillin, or “shel yad,” is placed on the upper arm, and the strap wraps around the arm, hand, and fingers; the head-tefillin, or *shel rosh*, is placed above the forehead. The Torah (God’s teaching) commands they should be worn to serve as a “sign” and “remembrance” that God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. *(The scriptural texts for tefillin are obscure in literal meaning. For example, Deuteronomy 11:18 is one of the standard texts referenced as supporting the obligation. See Make a Tefillin Instructions for this activity.)*



Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit (Phil. 4:23).