Why Should the Bible Matter to Me?

*Key Faith Foundation:* The Bible Is a Map to Guide Your Life

*Key Scriptures:* Psalm 119:33-40, 65-68, 97-105
Why Should the Bible Matter to Me?

**Bible basis for teachers**

*Psalm 119:33-40, 65-68, 97-105*

- **GRAPPLE QUESTION:** Why Should the Bible Matter to Me?
- **KEY FAITH FOUNDATION:** The Bible Is a Map to Guide Your Life

The Bible was written before computers, world wars, and the founding of our country. Kids may wonder, “If the Bible was written that long ago, does it really have anything to say about the kind of stuff we’re dealing with today?” Use this lesson to teach kids that God’s Word guides and directs us in the ways he wants us to go. Remind kids that although they might not understand everything right now, they’ll find more and more that’s meaningful to them as they dig deeper and deeper into the Bible.

In *Psalm 119:97-105*, the psalmist praises God for his instructions and says he thinks about those instructions all day long. The psalmist explains that God’s Word serves as a guide to make him wiser than his enemies and that it gives him understanding, guides his feet, and gives him more insight than his teachers and elders. This passage has kids look to God’s Word as a guide and encourages them to think about areas where they need to turn to the Bible for God’s guidance.

**Psalm 119:65-68** offers praise to God for his Word, which, according to the psalmist, teaches good judgment and knowledge. As a result, the psalmist obeyed God and followed God’s plan for his life. The Bible was designed to teach us good judgment and knowledge. It helps us obey God and keeps us from wandering off the path God intended for us.

**Psalm 119:33-40** explains that when we follow God’s commands, we’ll experience God’s goodness. Help kids dig into what God’s goodness looks like. Then encourage them to think about how the Bible speaks to each of the issues they’re facing currently. Remind kids that God’s Word is good and following his commands leads to joyful lives.

**understanding preteens**

So much is competing for the attention of preteens that the Bible might not always seem like a priority. Society encourages kids to stay modern and relevant, so they need reminders that the Bible is a must-have guide that speaks to life today. Use this lesson to show kids that the Bible isn’t a passing fad; instead, it’s an essential tool for growth, wisdom, guidance, and joy.
# Why Should the Bible Matter to Me?

## The Lesson at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Sequence</th>
<th>What Kids Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
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</table>
| **1** grapple community (5 minutes) | Build relationships. | • DVD player  
• Christian music CD  
• CD player  
• snacks |
| **2** grapple games (10-15 minutes) | Choose two games to play. | • tape  
• paper  
• blindfolds  
• washable markers  
• one chair for each player  
• folded pieces of paper with animal names written on them |
| **3** grapple time (10 minutes) | Imagine living on another planet and consider why the Bible matters today. | • paper (full sheets and slips)  
• pencils |
| **4** grapple team time (15 minutes) | Consider how Bible verses apply today and how the Bible is a map for our lives. | • Bibles  
• pencils  
• copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person  
• poster board  
• markers |
| **5** grapple team reports (10 minutes) | Report what they learned from the Bible passage they studied. | • random objects |
| **6** grapple prayer (5 minutes) | Choose a prayer option. | • Bibles |
| **7** grapple dare | Hear the Grapple dare. | |
Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship. Give kids this discussion starter as they eat. Say: **Find out from five people in our group what their favorite flavor of bubble gum is.**

**1 grapple community**

**2 grapple games**

Say: **We’re going to play a game, but you’ll get to choose. Would you rather play Fetch a Sketch (p. 104), where you work together to complete drawings while blindfolded? Or would you like to play Shifting Shapes (p. 106), where you form letters of the alphabet as a team?** Have kids vote on the game they’d like to play. Then lead kids in playing the game.

Say: **Now we’ll play another game. Would you rather play Pileup (p. 105), where you’ll see which categories you each fit into? Or would you like to play Barnyard (p. 103), where you identify one another through animal sounds?** Have kids vote on the game they’d like to play. Then lead kids in playing the game.

**3 grapple time**

GET READY ▶ *Have kids get into their Grapple Teams. Give each team one full sheet of paper and one slip of paper.*

Lead the entire group in the following:

Let’s imagine each team lives on a separate planet, which is completely different from earth. As a team, come up with a description of the planet you live on, and write it on the sheet of paper. Then write on the slip of paper the most important instruction someone would need to know about living on your planet. But make sure you don’t give away what kind of planet you live on. For example, if your planet is sweet and made entirely of bubble gum, you might write, “Don’t forget to wear your no-stick shoes and bring your toothbrush.”

Allow time. Gather all of the slips of paper and sheets of paper, and mix them up. Give a planet description and an instruction to each team, but make sure teams don’t get instructions for the planet you’ve given them. Have teams read the instruction slips aloud and try to guess what kind of planet they’re going to before reading the planet description.
What was it like trying to guess what type of planet you were going to when the instruction didn’t match up or apply to your planet? How is that like or unlike how you feel when you read the Bible? Does everything in the Bible always match up with your life? Explain.

Do you think the Bible really applies to every part of our lives? Can the Bible possibly help us know what to do about stuff that wasn’t even around when the Bible was written? Explain.

I’m going to call out some things that weren’t around when the Bible was written. Stomp your feet if you think the Bible talks about this issue, or lightly clap your hands if you think the Bible doesn’t have anything to say about it.

Call out the following, pausing after each one: watching *SpongeBob SquarePants*, wearing bikini swimsuits, eating too many Big Macs, and texting. We didn’t agree on all of these. It makes me wonder: If the Bible was written a long time ago, does it really have anything to say about the kind of stuff we’re dealing with today? Do you ever wonder: Why should the Bible, such an old book, matter to me today? Let’s grapple with that.

4 grapple team time

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 69-70.

5 grapple team reports

At the end of Grapple Team Time, have kids work with their team to choose one of the options below to report what they discovered.

**Option 1: Random Report**
Use a random object from around the room to share what you discovered about why the Bible should matter to you.

**Option 2: Reality Report**

Match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2. Have teams present their reports. *(Do this one team at a time if you have only two Grapple Teams.)*
6 grapple prayer

Read the Grapple prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

**Option 1: Direction Prayers**
Stand and face north as you thank God for providing the Bible as a map to guide your life. Ask for help in following the directions God provides.

**Option 2: Psalm Prayers**
Read Psalm 119:33-40 quietly to yourself as a prayer to God.

7 grapple dare

Say: The Bible is a map to guide your life. The whole Bible is God’s Word to you to guide you and direct you in the ways he wants you to go. Even though you might not understand everything right now, when you dig deep into God’s Word, you’ll find the Bible has something meaningful to say about every issue you will face in your life.

Here’s your Grapple dare: I dare you to look to the Bible for a specific direction this week. Check out one of these verses for practical advice: Ephesians 6:1; Philippians 3:8; Galatians 6:2.

*(Find the Parent Page for this lesson on the enhanced DVD. Have each child give a copy to his or her parent. Alternatively, send the file to parents via email.)*
In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today’s question.

Does the Bible really have anything to do with our lives today? Read the following verses and see if they apply to anything you deal with. Draw a line between a verse and the issue you think applies to it. If you don’t think a verse applies to any issue, cross out the verse reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verses</th>
<th>Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philippians 4:8</td>
<td>cheating on a test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leviticus 19:11</td>
<td>wearing a bikini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Timothy 2:9-10</td>
<td>eating too many Big Macs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exodus 23:1</td>
<td>talking about others behind their backs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippians 3:17-19</td>
<td>watching <em>SpongeBob SquarePants</em></td>
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**Read Psalm 119:97-105.**

List at least four ways these verses help you understand how God’s Word can guide you. In which of these ways do you most need the Bible to guide you in your life? Explain.

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**Read Psalm 119:65-68.**

What do these verses say you can learn from the Bible? How can learning these things keep you from wandering off the path God has planned for you? Give some examples of what God’s guidance might look like in your life.
4. Why Should the Bible Matter to Me?

Read Psalm 119:33-40.

These verses say that when you obey God’s commands, you find happiness. How can obeying the Bible help you find happiness? How can you use the Bible as a map to guide your life?

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With your Grapple Team, draw a map on a piece of poster board. From what you learned above, name some things or places you’ll visit when you use the Bible as a map for your life. Be sure to include some of the promises you just read about as part of the drawing.

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**grapple team reports**

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

**Option 1:** *Random Report*

Use a random object from around the room to share what you discovered about why the Bible should matter to you.

**Option 2:** *Reality Report*