



Reflecting Jesus - Words Create Worlds

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Before you start:

1. Prayerfully read through the whole lesson at least twice
2. Gather all the materials you need for each section (see right)
3. Work with another team member and plan who will manage each section of the session.

Leadership Personal Preparation:

Think about a time when you listened to God and it made a difference in your life. If the Holy Spirit invites you to do so, be ready to tell the story of your experience during the welcome or the conclusion. Otherwise use the inspiration of the story to fill you with enthusiasm for today's session.

You will need:

- Marker pens/felt pens, paper, pencils
- Mission Possible:**
- Copies of 'Wise Words'. Copy them onto thin card and cut the rectangles apart.
- Scissors
- Word Search:**
- Copies of the Word Search study enough for one per person
- A4 sheets of skin coloured paper cut into large ear shapes – several per small group –this doesn't have to be artistic – just cut shapes that look roughly like ears! Or provide scissors and ask each group to cut their own ear shapes.
- Family Focus Time:**
- Cups and drinks
- Family Discussion Cards - 1 card per family
- Family Prayer Time:**
- Small bowls – preferable ceramic or glass – or use saucers
- Olive oil
- Cotton balls – at least one per person
- Wet-wipes for cleaning up
- Jesus and Me (JAM) Session:**
- CD player and CD of soft worship music
- One set of 'Jesus and Me' Journal Pages per participant
- Take-away Menu (optional):**
- Copy the Bible Study bookmarks onto thin card and cut apart. One per person

By the end of the session, the group members will:

- Know that when God speaks, wonders take place.
- Feel an increased desire to listen to the words of God.
- Respond by making more space in their lives for listening to God in ways that suit their individual needs, learning styles and gifts.



KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Words Create Worlds



Welcome, Prayer and Introduction – 5 mins

Say:

“ Our words are powerful. They can build us up, or tear us down. They can start wars, or create a peace process. They can pronounce a couple husband and wife; sentence someone to prison; motivate us to win a race; and comfort us when we’re sad. And these are just our human words. Imagine the difference God’s words can make! He spoke and there was light, mountains, a universe, life...

As followers of Jesus we need to know how to listen to the voice of God speaking to us. God’s words can transform and re-create our lives. When he speaks, exciting things happen.



Pray - mentioning the goals for this session.

Icebreaker - 5 mins

Say: ‘For the next few moments find two different people who are not in your family and say one sentence to them that will make them feel happy. Notice the power of your words on the other person, and the power of their words in your life when they say something to make you feel happy.’

- Allow three minutes for the group to mingle and speak to each other.
- Then ask two or three people to share their observations and thoughts about the difference the words made.

Mission Possible - 15 mins

You will need:

1. Wise Words - one per family
 2. Scissors
 3. Paper
 4. Pencils
- Arrange the group in their family groups along a wall in your meeting room. This activity will still work with families of two people, but you can let two smaller families work together if they would prefer.
 - Let each family choose one person to be a caller. This person needs to have a strong, clear voice.
 - Arrange the callers in a row opposite their families. They can line up against the opposite wall, or at any distance between 6-10 metres away.
 - If your group is very small, play a CD of a sermon or audio book to make it more difficult to hear the words being called.

- Give each caller one of the cards with a wise saying on it.

Say: ‘Each of the callers has been given a wise saying. These wise sayings are not from the Bible, but my proverb is from the Bible. All the callers will dictate their wise words to their families, but each family must also write down my Bible verse as well. The caller must read through their sayings as they are written down – in complete sentences – not repeating words, and not using any gestures. They can read them through as many times as necessary, and at whatever speed they like. The winner will be the first group to write out their wise saying, and my Bible verse, without any mistakes.’

- When you say ‘Go!’ each caller has to start yelling the wise saying that is on their card so that their family can write it down.
- As soon as the callers start yelling, you will also start shouting a verse from the Bible.
- Callers can keep repeating their sayings and you can keep repeating your Bible verse until there is a winner.

Mission Possible: Feedback Questions

- What insights did this activity give you into hearing the voice of God?
- How can we hear the voice of God today when there are so many voices calling out to us?





KID for Teens: Leaders Guide: Words Create Worlds



Word Search - 25/35 mins

You will need:

1. Copies of the Word Search study - one per person
2. Pens
3. A4 sheets of skin coloured paper cut into large ear shapes – several per small group (Or provide scissors and ask each group to cut their own ear shapes.)
4. Marker pens.

- Divide your large group into separate parents and teens groups for this Bible study. Aim to keep each group smaller than six people.
- Appoint a group leader for each small group who will guide the group through the questions and write down their ideas and responses.
- Allow fifteen to twenty minutes study-time.
- Remind them to write their ideas for listening to God, on to the large ear-shaped pieces of paper.

Word Search - Coming Together

- Call people back to the larger group.
- Invite each group to share a special insight that emerged from their study.
- Then invite each group to stick their listening ideas (written on ear-shaped pieces of paper) onto a wall, board, or flip chart for everyone to see and read.

Family Focus - 10/15 mins

You will need:

1. Drinks and cups.
2. Family Discussion Cards

- Let everyone re-assemble into their family groups, collecting a drink on the way.
- Give each family a discussion card to pass around their circle. Each person can discuss a topic or answer one of the questions from the card. They can also pass it to the next person if they would prefer not to speak.

Family Prayer Time - 15 mins

You will need:

1. Paper & Pencils
2. Small bowls
3. Olive oil
5. Wet-wipes
6. Cotton balls – at least one per person

Say: 'In Bible times people spoke blessings over each other that made a huge difference to their lives. Think about the importance of the blessings given to Jacob and Esau by their father, Isaac.'

- Give each family a small bowl containing a little pool of olive oil. Provide cotton balls to dip into the oil so that each person can be anointed with oil during the blessing, if they wish. Provide some wet-wipes for cleaning hands and skin after the anointing. People can be anointed with a small touch of oil on their forehead or on their hand if they prefer.
- Ask the people to sit in their family groups, and give each person a small piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Then ask them to write a couple of sentences of a blessing prayer for the person to their left. If they get stuck, ask them to look at the endings of some of the epistles, or Numbers 6:24-26.
- Allow families plenty of time to pray their blessings over each other and to anoint each other if they wish.

JAM (Jesus and Me) Session - 5 mins

You will need:

1. One set of 'Jesus and Me' Journal Pages per participant
- Ask each person to turn to their journal pages and begin responding to the questions and activities.
 - You could invite them to read Psalm 23 and begin completing the Bible journaling page in today's journal pack. Or they could read through some of the creative Bible study ideas to discover other ways to explore and enjoy the Bible.
 - Allow 5 minutes for this and play some reflective, peaceful Christian music during this time.

Take-Away Menu - (optional)

You will need:

1. Bible Study bookmarks - one per person
- Give each person a bookmark printed with the eight important questions to consider when reading a Bible passage.
 - Invite group members to read aloud each question in turn.
 - Encourage each person to try this approach to Bible study during the next week.
 - Remind the group that the theme for today has been 'finding fresh ways to listen to God's voice.'
 - Ask everyone to find another person in the group and to tell them the most significant thing that they have learned during today's session.

Closing Prayer



<p>To prepare for a decade – plant a tree. To prepare for a century – nurture a child. --- <i>Chinese Proverb</i></p>	<p>Forgiveness is the fragrance of the violet that clings fast to the heel that crushed it. --- <i>Anonymous</i></p>
<p>Take care of the minutes for the hours will take care of themselves. --- <i>Lord Chesterfield</i></p>	<p>Courage is not the absence of fear but the ability to carry on with dignity in spite of it. --- <i>Scott Turow</i></p>
<p>Whoever is happy will make others happy too. He who has courage and faith will never perish in misery. --- <i>Anne Frank</i></p>	<p>I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love. --- <i>Mother Teresa</i></p>
<p>Triumph is a great word, but it is the first syllable that counts. Whoever found any meaning in the word 'Umph'? --- <i>Anonymous</i></p>	<p>God made the world round so that we would never be able to see too far down the road ahead. --- <i>Isak Dinesen</i></p>
<p>Life is like an onion: you peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep. --- <i>Carl Sandberg</i></p>	<p>Everyman is a fool for at least five minutes every day; wisdom consists of not exceeding the limit. --- <i>Elbert Hubbard</i></p>
<p>Leader's Bible verse to read aloud during game: Kind words are like honey – they cheer you up and make you feel strong. --- <i>Proverbs 16:24 (CEV)</i></p>	



KID for Teens: Handout: Words Create Worlds Word Search - Wonder about this...



In Genesis 1, when God spoke, human beings (Adam and Eve) were created instantly and beautifully, filling God with great pleasure.

When Jesus spoke, in his life-time, he gave human beings (Zaccheus, the woman caught in adultery, the woman at the well, etc) the opportunity to be re-created instantly and beautifully, filling God with great pleasure.

When the Holy Spirit speaks to you today, you too can be re-created instantly and beautifully, filling God with great pleasure.

Discuss

- How do you feel when you think about the difference God can make in your life, just by speaking?
- What other things can happen to human beings when God speaks?
- How can we listen to God today? Write each of your ideas, with a marker pen, on large ear-shaped pieces of paper. Save them to share with the larger group.
- In your small group choose some new thoughts or ideas that arose from your discussion, and write them here:

Be prepared to share your thoughts with the other groups when you meet together again.



LESSON 6 -

FAMILY Discussion CARD

Tell the story of a time when you listened to God. What happened?

If God was sitting next to you, what do you think he might say to you, personally?

One of the challenges of listening to God is...

Something I would most like to hear God say to me would be...

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One of the challenges of listening to God is...

Something I would most like to hear God say to me would be...

Bible Study Questions

1. Is there an example for me to follow?
2. Is there a sin for me to avoid?
3. Is there a command for me to obey?
4. What does this particular passage teach me about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
5. Is there a difficult challenge for me to explore?
6. Is there a promise for me to claim?
7. Is there something that shows me how to reflect the character of Jesus?
8. Is there something in the passage for me to pray about today?

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KID for Teens: Jesus and Me: Lesson 6: Words create Worlds: Bible Study Tools



There are lots of different ways we can study the Bible, so that we can listen to God and hear him speaking to us, personally. It is good to find a way that works best for you.

When we study the Bible we need to apply it to our lives so that it can make a difference to the way we live and the way in which we reflect the love of Jesus in our lives.

Here are some questions that can help you apply the meaning of a Bible verse or passage to your own life:

Bible Study Questions:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- What does this particular passage teach me about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
- Is there a difficult challenge for me to explore?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there something that shows me how to reflect the character of Jesus?
- Is there something in the passage for me to pray about today?

How to use the questions:

Prayerfully choose a Bible passage, or a book of the Bible to read through. Choose a translation that you enjoy reading, and start by reading a small amount at a time. Start with the Gospels and then try Philippians, Colossians and Ephesians.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you as you read, claiming the promise of James 1:5. Pray that God will speak clearly to you so that the words you read will truly change your life and your personal world.

Read through the chosen passage a few times until you understand what you are reading, as much as possible.

Once you have read through your passage, begin to ask questions that will help you to apply the meaning to your own life.

You might like to journal as you read – write the Bible reference at the top of a piece of paper and then answer each question in turn. Jot down any other ideas and insights you have about the passage. Keep these as a reminder of your spiritual journey.

Pray at the end of your study, too. Pray that the Holy Spirit will remind you of what God has spoken to you, and pray that your life will increasingly reflect the purposes and priorities of Jesus.



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KID for Teens: Jesus and Me: Lesson 6: Words create Worlds: Journaling the Bible



Date:

BIBLE REFERENCE:

Summary of the passage:

1. Is there an example for me to follow?
2. Is there a sin for me to avoid?
3. Is there a command for me to obey?
4. What does this particular passage teach me about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
5. Is there a difficult challenge for me to explore?
6. Is there a promise for me to claim?
7. Is there something that shows me how to reflect the character of Jesus?
8. Is there something in this passage for me to pray about today?

Any other ideas:





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KID for Teens: Jesus and Me: Lesson 6: Words create Worlds: Creative Bible Study ideas Provided by Karen Holford



Bible Study – A time to spend in friendship with God

'I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.'

John 15:15

If we see God as our friend, and our Bible study as spending time with a friend, doing 'friend' things together, and learning more about God as our friend, how does this change our perspective on Bible study?

This isn't the only way to see Bible study, of course, but when we get stuck and want to be more creative, it can be a useful way of looking at our Bible study.

Bible study also influences our understanding of our relationships with others and will change the way we respond to those around us, hopefully inviting them into friendship with God, too.

Create an atmosphere of worshipfulness and beauty

Go to a place that you keep tidy and clutter free, so that you have the least distractions.

Use candles and other lighting effects to create an attractive ambience.

Play music that suits your style of worship and the topics you are studying.

From time to time choose a special place to go and study, such as a park, your garden, or a special place in nature.

Learning about God with our whole being

God has created us with different minds, bodies and hearts and we can use these differences to enrich each other's worship experience.

How can we use all of our unique qualities to discover fresh and new ways to study the Bible and build our friendship with God?

Music

Choose music that fits different texts and create a music mood collage for a scripture passage such as Psalm 23.

Write new songs – based on the scripture themes you are studying.

Perhaps you could write a mini musical about a Bible character for the children in your church to perform.

Use your instruments to create a soundtrack for a portion of scripture.

We are different & need different approaches to Bible Study

God calls us to experience Him with everything He has uniquely made us to be. Psalm 139:13-15. He created us to be different and to experience things differently, so that we could understand different aspects of His love and truth and share them with each other.

Discover what excites you!

What do you most enjoy about your relationship with God?

What keeps your interest?

What activity would most interest you?

What Bible stories or topics are you curious about?

How will your study nurture your spiritual gifts?

How will you prioritise time for creative Bible study in your schedule?

How will you share what you are discovering with others?

When you read a text, ask yourself what activity could help to illustrate the meaning of this text for a child, a teenager or an adult?

Try doing some of these activities and see how it enriches your understanding. For example, for 'love is patient' 1 Corinthians 4:4 – try doing a challenging activity or a puzzle that tries your patience, to give you new insights into how patience is loving.

Or explore what it means that 'love is kind' by massaging hand cream into a friend's hands.





KID for Teens: Jesus and Me: Lesson 6: Words create Worlds: Creative Bible Study ideas

Provided by Karen Holford



Prayer and the Holy Spirit

'But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.' John 16:13.

However we study the Bible, we need to invite the Holy Spirit to be our guide. He can give us inspiration, ideas and creativity, and also make sure that God is the focus of all that we do.

The Spirit also gives us different gifts and abilities and helps us to use these in our Bible study. Bible study also strengthens our abilities to use our spiritual gifts so that we can share what we receive from God's Word with others.

We need to remain open to the Holy Spirit as he guides us into new areas of study, new ways to worship, new responses to God's love, and new ways to put our learning into action in our relationships with others.

Share with each other what you are experiencing about God

How can you and your friends encourage each other to study the Bible in fresh and creative ways?

Email each other with inspiration and ideas.

Bible study over coffee and cakes, or walking/exercising together.

Use your mobile phone and text each other.

Send chain letters or emails, adding your thoughts about a text and passing the letter on to the next person.

Choose a verse together and then go away and come back together a week later with something that illustrates what that text means for you personally, such as picture, object, craft project or poem.

Art

Create a poster that illustrates the key point of the Bible passages you are studying. Perhaps you could make a display of such posters in your home or at church.

Create cartoons to illustrate some of the proverbs.

Design a book of Bible verses for a friend and illustrate them with your artwork.

Create a simple collage, or a sculpture, to express your response to the scriptures you are studying.

Crafts

Sew a quilt together as you fellowship. Create different panels for the quilt based on different Bible verses, promises, or Bible stories etc, such as a quilt of different angels with angel texts, or love texts around patchwork hearts.

Cross stitch a special Bible verse.

Create cards around the themes of different texts and send them to people that may need encouragement.

Create mini collages that illustrate a Bible story or text – such as the days of creation, or the parable of the lost sheep.

Make inspirational gifts around the themes of texts, to give away or to sell and raise funds for an ADRA project.

Scrapbooking is a popular craft now. Create a Scripture scrapbook, or album of your devotional life, decorating the pages in Scrapbook style. Look on the internet for ideas and resources.





KID for Teens: Jesus and Me: Lesson 6: Words create Worlds: Creative Bible Study ideas

Provided by Karen Holford



The Bible as a love letter

For each passage you read, ask yourself what it tells you about God's love for you.

Sum up each passage from this perspective and write a mini love letter from God to you each day.

Keep these in a special book and decorate the pages to suit the content. Write your answers back to God, too.

Take photos for an album, or collect pictures from different sources that answer for you the question 'What is God's love like?'

Explore www.fathersloveletter.com to discover a love letter from God created from paraphrased texts.

Computers

Create PowerPoint presentations of different scriptures – using animations, photo images, music and words etc. Show them in church or at a small group, or email them to friends, especially those who might be house-bound, or discouraged.

Explore websites with different inspirational crafts, nature, Christian sites, history and geography of the Holy Land, devotionals and Christian PowerPoint presentations. Use your graphics programmes to create bookmarks, encouraging booklets, cards, inspirational calendars and posters.

Use MSN for Bible studies together, sharing your ideas about a text with your friends.

Writing

Rewrite Bible stories from different perspectives, such as the baker who baked the bread for the little boy's lunch that fed the 5,000! Or Esther's maidservant, or the Innkeeper's wife at Jesus' birth.

Use scriptures to inspire your own poetry. Explore different kinds of poetry styles and try them out. There is even a Limerick Bible, where stories have been written in Limerick style poetry. Or try Haiku.

Rewrite psalms and parables for today's culture.

Write a drama sketch, in a thought-provoking way that illustrates what you are studying.

Keep a spiritual journal about your Bible study experiences.

Rainbow marking

You can try marking your Bible as you read, according to the colours of the rainbow:

Orange – a warning from God

Green – an encouragement to go and do something

Red – evidence of God's love to humans, or in love between humans

Yellow – a bright promise

Purple – an aspect of God's character

Blue – a soothing, calm and comforting text

A-Z of God

Find an alphabetised book, with a section for each letter of the alphabet, or make your own in an attractive journal.

Find a few aspects of God beginning with each letter of the alphabet, and write a different one of these aspects at the top of each page.

Then collect texts that illustrate these qualities, your own personal stories of how God has shown this characteristic to you, and other creative thoughts, comments and activities that help you to understand this characteristic of God.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

- Deuteronomy 6:5

With all my heart:

How can my Bible study develop my understanding of God's love? What has God given me a passion for? What relationships are important to me?

With all my soul (and mind):

What is my learning style? What spiritual and Biblical things am I curious about? What are my hobbies and interests?

With all my strength (and my strengths):

What are my spiritual gifts? What are my talents? What can I do physically?



KID for Teens: Jesus and Me: Lesson 6: Words create Worlds: Creative Bible Study ideas

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Interior Design etc

Create mini displays that illustrate a Bible story or topic, such as a collection of items that illustrate the last hours of Jesus' life close to Passover time, etc.

Collect together a selection of items that illustrate God's love, or His promises, and place them on a tray or in a basket, with labels that say how each object illustrates your theme.

Creating a special Biblical place in your home. For example – turn the sofa into Noah's Ark and use your children's toy animals, or create a throne room for a king, or even for God, together. Or a tent in the desert, a carpenter's workshop, etc. Work together, using things around the house, and read and talk about the Bible story as you create the effect.

But I'm so busy!

When your life is very busy, make use of the fragments of moments.

Use Bible reading and inspirational music and speaking cassettes and CDs. Play these on headphones as you exercise, work, travel etc.

Write Bible verses on small cards and carry them with you. If you use index cards you could write any thoughts you have on the back of the card and store them in a filing box in order of Biblical reference, or under different topics you are studying. Memorise the verses throughout the day. Place cards on your desk, mirror and near your sink, etc.

Subscribe to a free email devotional that will come to your computer each day.

Keep worship material anywhere you might be able to use it. Keep something small like text cards, or a tiny Bible, in your bag. Keep books handy by your bed, chair and even in the bathroom, so that every time you sit down for a rest you have something available and you don't have to get up again to get it.





KID for Teens: Jesus and Me: Lesson 6: Words create Worlds: Exploring my Unique Bible Study Style



<p>WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT is INSPIRING ME TO STUDY:</p> <p>God's love His character His promises to me His wisdom and will for my life New things I need to learn about Things I can share with others Things that will help me in my everyday life right now Other</p>	<p>Bible stories THAT interest ME:</p> <p>Histories Psalms Proverbs Prophecies Relationships Women Jesus' life etc. Parables Themes Promises Other</p>	<p>MY LEARNING STYLE:</p> <p>Verbal – reading and/or talking</p> <p>Visual – through pictures and metaphors</p> <p>Physical – through doing</p> <p>Relational – through interacting with others</p> <p>Other</p>
<p>MY Passions:</p> <p>Missions – local and overseas Caring for others Youth Women Families – including your own family Evangelism – reaching the unchurched etc Teaching Worship-leading Creating worshipful experiences Encouragement Homeless people and Refugees Health Other</p>	<p>MY HOBBIES:</p> <p>Physical activities and sports Music Art Creativity Cooking Writing Interior design Reading Socialising Surfing the net Nature Gardening Drama Other</p>	<p>MY Life stage AND responsibilities</p> <p>Child Teen Student Young adult Single adult Married adult Divorced/separated person Parent with young children Parent with teenagers Caring for another person Grandparent Retired person Widow Other</p>

