

LESSON 1

Understanding Why the Bible Matters

Having an attitude that is pleasing to God, about how you look at money and giving, only comes from believing that what the Bible says is true and that it shows us how to live.

Psalm 24 establishes that “the Earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” Agreement with this statement depends on one simple thing: one’s belief that the Holy Scriptures, divinely revealed to its earthly authors and thus available to us today, is God-inspired, inerrant, living and active, eternal, and useful for teaching.ⁱ

Such belief defines the phrase “Biblical worldview,” which as followers of Christ forms the basis of our acknowledgement of Truth, our adherence to it through obedience, and our celebration of it through worship.ⁱⁱ And the fruit in our lives reveals how serious we are about all three.

This first lesson explores what the Bible has to say about stewardship and how our response to Truth reveals our heart.

Think About it:

THE WAY GOD LOOKS AT THINGS IS OFTEN DIFFERENT FROM HOW WE SEE THEM.

In words your class can understand, define “perspective.” As a physical demonstration, you might have a child stand back to back with another, and ask each to describe what they see on the wall they are facing. Clearly, each will give a different version of what is in front of them, because their perspective is unique and directional, i.e. oriented to their line of sight. Alternately, you could have one child close their eyes, and describe what’s going on the room, and another describe with eyes open.

Share with them that unlike God’s constant and pure perspective, sometimes our vision is blurry/our ears are blocked; thus we can’t see/can’t hear. How/why? As a result of training, experiences, biases, lies, perceptions (real or imagined), etc.

Talk About It:

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF BLURRY VISION/MUFFLED HEARING?

Suggested answers: go the wrong way/choose the wrong path; make bad decisions; miss out on blessing.

Think About it:

BELIEVING THE BIBLE IS TRUE MUST SHOW IN THE WAY WE LIVE.

We will only follow Jesus when we believe that God’s word is true and that His perspective matters most. So when we do, what does a disciple’s life look like? Have them look at Jesus’s 12 and draw conclusions (they spent time with him; they did what He did; they had questions for him, and ultimately trusted Him, they looked strange to others who did not recognize who Jesus was, etc.)

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Talk About It:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A "DISCIPLE"?

Ask them the following questions and guide discussion toward the evidence of true discipleship, which is the fruit we bear in our lives. ⁱⁱⁱ Reinforce the idea that the fruit flows from our lives because we love God, not that "doing" (to prove we're fruitful) makes us more pleasing to God.

- How does a disciple's behavior differ from someone who isn't one?
- What did the disciples do, that others around Jesus did not?
- Faith = doing, not just saying.
- Have them fill in the blanks, from the verses referenced above:
 - "They will know you're my disciples by the way you ____ one another."
 - "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much ____, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

Talk About it:

WHAT DOES GOD ASK/EXPECT OF US?

Show them the value and relevance of the Word of God by backing this up with specific passages.

- Love God first; love others second.
- To trust.
- To obey.
- To sacrifice.
- To forgive.
- To grow.
- To give.

Solidify this section by reminding them that blessing follows obedience (passages in **Deut 8, 11, 28** all attest to this simple truth) and the reason we are blessed, is to be a blessing.

Lesson Summary

When we view the world the way God does, and we choose to live as His disciples, we will do what Jesus did. We are blessed in the process, so that we can give the way Jesus did.

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Suggested "object lesson" craft or activity:

- Looking through cling wrap vs. wax paper vs. cardboard
- Blindfold + earmuffs. Try to walk/hear/accomplish task
- Treasure chest (jar, colored box) filled with "scripture snacks" (verses written/colored on blank index cards)



Memory verses:

- **Psalms 119.105** Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet...
- **Matthew 6: 21** For where [my] treasure is, there [my] heart will be also.
- **Psalms 119.11** I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.



Family Action for this week:

- Discuss giving and money as a family.
- Think of ways you haven't honored God with what you have.
- Ask God to help you and decide to live differently.

i	2 Tim 3:16
II	John 14:6
lii	John 13.34, 15.8