

BibleWise

ACTIVITIES

This month we are reviewing some of the Bible characters who wanted a close relationship with God and those who praised God. Bible Overview covers the letter to the [II Thessalonians](#). You might be wondering why there's so much emphasis on prayer. Prayer is the most powerful weapon we can use against evil. Our world needs our prayers. We need to teach our children to pray, and understand the efficacy of prayer.

Exercise:

Read the Prayer of Jabez from I Chronicles 4:9-10. On a white board, have the students list the four principle aspects of the prayer. Help the students create a mnemonic for remembering the third request to ask God to enlarge or expand our borders or territory. The student might draw a picture of him/herself and cover the likeness with glue to show that God sticks to us like glue. Draw a picture as a reminder.

Exercise:

Continue adding Bible people who prayed and those who worked on having a close relationship with God. We have only mentioned a few, such as Moses, who was instructed to free the Children of Israel from Egypt. Moses was given the instructions to build the tent of meeting. Three tribes were stationed on each side of the tent of meeting. God was considered to be in the Holy of Holies – so that God would be in the center of their lives. Joshua asked the people to choose which God they were going to worship and when the people chose God, He delivered them. Gideon tested God to make sure God was going to stay close to him and guide him. Samuel discovered how to talk with God. David had tremendous reliance on his relationship with God or he never would have attempted to battle with Goliath. There are many more Bible characters to choose from – keep the list growing. Make sure you tell the story and then find it in the Bible. Read it to make sure you didn't leave out any of the important details.

Exercise:

Talk about the different ways we can praise God. Look at the following Psalms [67](#); [100](#); [113](#); [136](#); [139](#) and [145](#).

Using [I Give Thanks For...](#) or the exercise questions below, help your pupils write their own Psalms to read at Thanksgiving dinner or anytime during Thanksgiving day.

BibleWise
I Give Thanks For...

Thanksgiving is a good time to think about all we are grateful for.

David wrote his thanks in the form of Psalms.

Can you write a Psalm to thank God for all He has given you?

Start with your answers to these questions and it will be easy to write a psalm.

I am grateful for _____.

I give thanks everyday for _____.

Who created heaven and earth?

Are you grateful for God's creation?

Then what do you say?

Who keeps you and your family safe?

What things has God provided for your family?

What is a blessing to you?

Count all your blessings and then praise God.

Your Psalm might look like this:

God who created heaven and earth, I praise you!
Thank you for your wonderful creation.
Thank you for keeping my family and me safe.
Thank you for our food, home, and church.
Thank you for blessing me and my friends and my family.
I am blessed because I know God loves me.
My family is blessed because God gave them to me.
I am so grateful to God for all I have. Amen.

Share your Thanksgiving Psalm at the dinner table on Thanksgiving.



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Use a series of questions for children to answer in the development of writing a psalm. The age of the children will determine how long it will take to get the answers. Older children can probably answer all the questions in one sitting or do them as homework. Younger children can handle up to about five - seven questions in an hour. Some of the questions need explanation to make certain the child understands what's being asked.

Have a sheet of paper with each pupil's name and the questions on it. If the children can print or write their answers, great. If not, don't hesitate to be the scribe. Even the older children love to have you write their words on paper.

Take Psalm 100.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. [Say something nice about God!]

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. [Say something about how glad we are to serve or belong to God and how we do that.]

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. [What do you know about God and your relationship to Him?]

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto

him, and bless his name. [What should we do for God?]

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. [What is true about God?]

After you've gathered the answers, type out or print each psalm.

The students get pretty excited about their ability to write down their ideas. Caryl Krueger's article in [Parenting](#) explains how to develop the parallel structure of the psalm. Synonymous structure means the first part of the line makes a statement and the second part echoes or repeats the meaning of the first part.

Example: Ps.92:1 Lord, it is good to praise you. [1st line of the verse] Most High God, it is good to make music to honor you. [2nd line restates the first]

Another type of structure is the antithetical. First line states, second line is the opposite.

Example: Ps 1:6

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: [first line] but the way of the ungodly shall perish. [the second line is the opposite of the first line]

There are other types, but these are the easiest to teach children.

Now try the following questions. I've listed the five-year-old's responses below.

- What would you like to say to God?
- What do or would you thank God for?
- What makes you happy or glad?
- What makes you sad?
- When are you afraid? [if they haven't been introduced to any concept of fear, you might want to skip this and the next question.]
- What makes you afraid?
- What do you need help with?
- Where is God?
- How do you know God exists?
- How have you been blessed by God?
- Why should we obey God?
- Do you have friends?
- What do you like about your parents or friends?
 - Are those comments true about God as a parent or friend?
- Do you have enemies?
 - How can you love your enemies?
- Sing a song to God.

After you have their responses to the questions, put them in an order - with praise in

the beginning and closing, the tough answers to life's questions in the middle.

Here is an example from a five year old.

Psalm 151

Thank you, God, for keeping me safe. I love you.

You made everything here on earth. You are very helpful all around the world. I'm glad you made us.

Thank you, God, for making me glad. Thank you, God, for loving me and my family.

Thank you for loving my brother and seeing his needs. Give him the strength to walk, run, and jump. Keep him from falling and feeling sad.

Hold me tight the way I hug and kiss my Mom. Help me not feel hurt when my parents say, "No."

Please help me feel safe when the lights are out. I am grateful for you, God, and all that you have made.

Jacquelyn

It really was quite simple and effortless.

Get a nice piece of paper and let them draw an appropriate picture to go with their psalm.

Post these masterpieces on a bulletin board at church.

Exercise:

Help your pupils study the Psalms and build a "first aid" kit of verses to help in times of trouble.

Example:

Ever have an embarrassing moment?

Ps 25:20

O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

Is cheating a challenge?

Ps 25:21

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Sunburn?

Ps 121:6

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

Afraid to go to bed at night?

Ps 4:8

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.

Concerned about health?

Ps 67:2

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

Afraid?

Ps 56:3

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

Ps 56:11

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Exercise:

Introduce your pupils to some of the sayings in [Proverbs](#). What kind of images are used to help them remember the Proverbs.

Let the children find the hidden images of the words in the Proverbs picture.

 [Print/Download Proverbs](#)

 [Print/Download Proverbs Answer Sheet](#)

Proverbs

Some other examples are written in the Old Testament book of Proverbs. Hidden in the picture on the next page are several things talked about in Proverbs 30 and 31. Fill in the spaces below, then find those things in the next page.

1. who hath gathered the wind in his fist?
2. he is a ... unto them that put their trust in him.
3. while ... with us ... and the sea hath an ...
4. The ... that speaketh of his father.
5. the way of an ... in the air;
the way of the ... upon a ...
the way of a ... in the midst of the sea.
6. the ... of a simple net strong.
7. the ... father thought of as a serpent are but a brittle link.
8. the ... hath no wing.
9. the ... which hold with her hands.
10. A ... which is changed among beasts.
11. the ... with a ...
12. the ... with the ...
13. the ... strength both sides.

Bible Activities For Everyone by Betty Croft and Mary Carter. Grand Rapids, MI Baker Book Publishers, 1986.

Exercise:

Bible fun. Help the children become familiar with helpful Bible verses and who said them with [Do You Know Who Said It?](#)



[Print/Download Do You Know Who Said It?](#)



[Print/Download Do You Know Who Said It? Answer Sheet](#)

BibleWise
Do You Know Who Said It?
This is a helpful review of familiar Bible verses. Match the following verses with the person who said it.

Person	Verse
_____ 1. Isaac	A. Deut 6-9 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
_____ 2. Daniel	B. Acts 3:6 Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.
_____ 3. Zephaniah	C. Luke 23:34 Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.
_____ 4. Paul	D. John 1:29 Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
_____ 5. John the Baptist	E. 2 Sam 17:45 Thus cometh he me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts.
_____ 6. Moses	F. 1 Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
_____ 7. David	G. Dan 6:12 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me: and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.
_____ 8. Peter	H. 1 Kings 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge the people, that I may discern between good and bad.
_____ 9. Joseph	I. Josh 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the Flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
_____ 10. Solomon	J. 2 Sam 20:18 Behold, O Behold, my master and hath not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand. There is none greater in the house than I, neither hath he kept back any thing from me but this, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and go against God?

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Exercise:

National Bible Week is the same week as Thanksgiving. Help the pupils all month long get a better understanding of their Bibles. Play [Match Old Testament Characters](#) or create your own matching games for the Bible characters your students have studied. Ask the students to tell the story about each character.



[Print/Download Match Old Testament Characters](#)





[Print/Download Match Old Testament Characters Answer Sheet](#)

BibleWise
National Bible Week Review
 Match the Old Testament characters with their events

A. Moses	_____	1. tore a lion apart with his bare hands
B. Gideon	_____	2. a woman judge
C. Noah	_____	3. fought the battle of Jericho
D. Joseph	_____	4. name was changed to Israel
E. Aaron	_____	5. mother of Joseph and Benjamin
F. Hagar	_____	6. tested God before fighting the Midianites
G. Deborah	_____	7. she helped Joshua's spies
H. Samson	_____	8. built an ark
I. Jacob	_____	9. interpreted a dream that saved Egypt
J. Rachel	_____	10. put Moses in the bulrushes
K. Abraham	_____	11. his brother's spokesman before Pharaoh
L. Isaac	_____	12. God spoke to him out of a burning bush
M. Joshua	_____	13. mother of Ishmael
N. Miriam	_____	14. had a son when he was 100
O. Rahab	_____	15. he and his wife Rebekah had twin boys

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You might also want to work with those Bible characters who expressed gratitude. The following exercise helps children match the person with the event that they are most grateful for in [Prayer of Thanksgiving](#). Ask students to add other Bible figures to this list.

-  [Print/Download Prayer of Thanksgiving](#)
-  [Print/Download Prayer of Thanksgiving Answer Sheet](#)

BibleWise
Prayer of Thanksgiving
 Match who said a prayer of Thanksgiving for each event.

Person	Events
 _____ 1. Jesus	A. For defeat of Goliath
 _____ 2. Isaac	B. His fish was restored
 _____ 3. Jacob	C. Deliverance from captivity
 _____ 4. A Leper	D. For the rans in the thicket
 _____ 5. David	E. For Esau's forgiveness
 _____ 6. Children of Israel	F. Raising of Lazarus
 _____ 7. Joshua	G. For having a son
 _____ 8. Moses	H. Healed of blindness
 _____ 9. Blind Man	I. Walls of Jericho falling down
 _____ 10. Rachel	J. Parting of the Red Sea

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Exercise:

Discuss with students how they use their Bibles. Talk about why the Bible is important and work with [How I Use My Bible](#). Expand this activity for your age group and the

materials you've covered in class.

Exercise:

Ask your pupils to write a Thank You letter to God. Make sure they include all the things they are most grateful for.

Exercise:

Share why you love the Bible with your students. Ask them to look for articles in newspapers and magazines, or to search for ideas in television programs and movies that mention God, the Bible, or the importance of gratitude this next week. Have them bring the results next Sunday. Were they surprised about how much or how little was mentioned? What can we do to help people be more Bible literate?

Exercise:

Bible review – have fun talking about Saul's conversion. Answer the questions about Saul/Paul in [Review of Paul](#).

 [Print/Download Review of Paul](#)

 [Print/Download Review of Paul Answer Sheet](#)

BibleWise
Paul Review
After you answer each question, search for the answer in the hidden word grid below.

1. Who did Paul watch get stoned to death? [Acts 7:59] _____
2. In which city was the apostle stoned? [Acts 8:1] _____
3. Who saw a blinding light? [Acts 9:4] _____
4. Who appeared to Saul on his way to Damascus? [Acts 9:5] _____
5. What was the name of the street? [Acts 9:11] _____
6. Who baptized Saul? [Acts 9:17] _____
7. Where was Saul born? [Acts 9:11] _____
8. Who was the owner of the house where Paul stayed? [Acts 9:11] _____
9. How many days was Saul blind? [Acts 9:5] _____
10. Which book of the Bible has the story of Saul's conversion? _____
11. Saul's name was changed to _____
12. Where was Saul headed? [Acts 9:3] _____

S	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	S
T	A	L	M	P	U	J	G	H	O	U
E	N	U	Q	T	S	U	F	S	O	C
P	A	E	L	L	E	D	E	U	S	S
M	H	E	D	U	J	A	B	S	A	A
E	I	R	S	A	T	S	O	R	M	M
M	A	H	Y	P	S	T	C	A	A	A
X	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	A	D

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Exercise: In preparation for National Bible Week November 19-26

Have your pupils make posters to put up around the church to remind everyone of this important week.

- The poster might include questions about the Bible like:
 - How many books in the Bible?
 - How many books in the Old Testament?
 - How many books in the New Testament?
 - What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
 - What is the longest book in the Bible?
- Or questions about Bible characters and stories?
 - Who was the first prophet?
 - Who brought down the walls of Jericho?
 - Who are the women in Jesus' genealogy?
 - What is the 5th commandment?
 - How old was Jesus when the Wise men arrived?
 - How many Beatitudes are there?

Exercise:

Also for National Bible Week: Have a contest and see who can recite the most Bible verses or create a Bible Jeopardy game for Sunday school pupils and church members.

Exercise:

Plan an activity for your pupils to share with their families to recognize National Bible Week

- Agree to read the Bible as a family for 15 minutes after dinner.
- Share any Bible verse that has helped you.
- Assign a different task for each day. The following is just an example. Create a program that will work for your family.
 - Sunday, quote your favorite verse and discuss it.
 - Monday, have each member tell his or her favorite story.
 - Tuesday, play twenty questions about a character in the Bible.
 - Wednesday, divide up the responsibility for writing a prayer for each meal on Thanksgiving. Make certain it includes a Bible verse. Ex. The Bible says to Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Thank you God for everyone sitting at this table. Thank you for

- Thursday, each person gets to share his or her prayer prepared for all of the meals.
- Friday, write out your favorite Bible verse and give it to a family member.
- Saturday, list all the things you learned about the Bible this week to share in Sunday School.
- Sunday, share what you learned with your Sunday School class.

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