

Introduction to the Bible Series: Week 1 – Introduction

Supplies needed: Bible, pile of 66 children's books (recommend Berenstain Bear style books)

Good morning everyone,

Hold up a Bible. Who can tell me what this is? *Allow kids to answer.* This is a Bible.

What's a Bible? *Allow kids to answer.* The Bible is a book with stories about God and God's people and God's love.

Where did it come from? Does anyone know? *Allow kids to answer.*

Practically speaking, here's what we know about where the Bible came from:

- The Bible is made up of 66 books. Do you see this pile here? Want to guess how many books are in this pile? 66! That's a lot of stories and characters and words isn't it? Maybe that's why the words inside a bible are so small, they have a lot to fit in!
- Each book was written by different people or authors (for the most part), they were written in different languages, to different people, in different places and at different times. Does that sound confusing? That's because it is. But it's okay, we figure it out together.

- The Bible is divided into two main parts. Does anyone know what those are called? *Old Testament and New Testament*
- The Old Testament comes first and it tells us the stories of God's people over several thousand years of history and historians think it took over 1,000 years to write.
- The New Testament only covers about 100 years and tell us about when Jesus came to the Earth and then the new Christian community that formed in response to what he taught us and what he did. It's the story of how the church started.

Now, those are some facts about this book that we can know by studying it, by using our heads. But what do our hearts know about this book?

- We believe that God speaks to us through the words of the Bible.
- A lot of what we know about God, we know because we can find it in the Bible.
- The Bible tells us about who God is, how God is at work in the world and in each of us, and how we can be close to God. Some pretty important things.

Do you think that all there is to know about God and all that God has to say to us can be held within this one book? *Allow kids to answer.* Friends, this book is really important to us but the Bible is just a starting place for us as we learn and seek to know God. I'm going to be sharing more about the Bible with you in the coming weeks and I hope that as we all continue learning together, we'll grow more and more in love with God, who is already deeply in love with each of you.

Will you repeat after me as we pray? (*Speak one line aloud at a time, allow kids and congregation to echo before saying the next line.*)

Wondrous God,
thank you for the Bible
and everyone who told your stories
so that we can know them too.
Help us to know you
through your Words. Amen.

Like what you see here?

You can purchase the entire 6 week series from my Etsy shop.

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/SaraPantazes>.