

# We Worship God When...We Read His Word

Lesson Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-12

**Bible Truth:** I can worship God by reading His Word.

**Bible Story:** Nehemiah 8:1-12

**Bible Verse:** "I rejoice in Your Word as one who finds a great treasure." (Psalm 119:162, NKJV)

## FOCUS

### Learning Activity: "Let's Go on a Hunt"

#### Preparation

Make a copy of the following treasure hunt clues for each team of two children. Do not include the words in parenthesis.

Psalm 31:3 (rock)

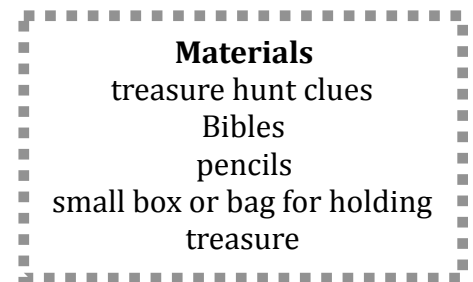
Genesis 8:11 (leaf)

Deuteronomy 11:15 (grass)

Genesis 2:7 (dust)

Job 14:2 (flower)

John 15:5 (branch)



\*If children do not have Bibles, write the entire verse out as a clue and have children circle in the verse the name of the treasure they need to find.

#### Presentation

Say: **Have you ever gone on a treasure hunt? Today, we're going to use the Word of God to help us find wonderful treasures in the world God has created.** Allow each child to choose a partner. Give each team a copy of the treasure clues. The children should look up the Bible verses to discover the treasures they need to find. Encourage them to write the name of the treasure next to the verse. When the children have completed this task, they can start looking for the treasures. Supervise the children while they are on the hunt. After the treasures have been found, give each

team a small prize. If possible, their prize should have a Bible verse written on it. Remind them the Word of God is the greatest treasure.

## **SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 119:162**

### **Preparation**

Write Psalm 119:162 on a piece of poster board.

Hide a small treasure (like a candy) somewhere in the classroom for each child.



Write the words of the Bible memorization verse on small pieces of paper. Hide the papers somewhere in the classroom before the children enter.

### **Explanation**

Say: **We have been learning about different ways to worship God. We have learned to worship Him with words and actions. What are two ways we have learned to worship God with our actions?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, we can worship God by going to church and praying. Today, we are going to learn about something else we can do to worship God. We can worship God by reading our Bibles. The Bible contains God's words. When we read the Bible, we are showing God that we know His words are important. Let's read the Bible right now.** Read Psalm 119:162 with the children.

Say: **Today, I have hidden one small treasure for each of you in this room.** Allow children to find the candy. They should go back to their seat after they find one piece. (If needed, tell the children that the papers they see hidden in the room are a different type of treasure, and they will find them later.)

After all the children have found one piece of candy, allow them to eat it while you discuss the following questions:

How did you feel when you found the small treasure?

How do you feel when you read the Bible?

Say: **Psalm 119:162 tells us that we should be happy when we read our Bibles, in the same way we are when we find a treasure.**

### **Memorization Activity**

Tell the children that the words of today's memorization verse are hidden and they need to find them. Let the children know when they should start looking. When they find a word on a piece of paper, they should sit down. When all of the words have been found, allow the child who has the

first word of the verse to stand up and say that word. Then, the child who has the next word should stand and say that word. Continue until all the words in the verse have been said. Have the children exchange words and repeat the activity.

## **INSTRUCT**

### **Bible Story: "Ezra Reads the Law of God to the People," Nehemiah 8:1-12**

#### **Preparation**

Read and study Nehemiah 8:1-12.

**Materials**  
Bible

#### **Presentation**

Say: **In today's Bible story, the people stood up as the Bible was being read to them. Let's see how long you can stand as I read the Bible.** Ask all of the children to stand up. Begin reading Psalm 119. Let the children know that they can sit down when they get tired. Stop reading when the last child has sat down or at the end of two minutes, whichever comes first.

Say: **For how long do you think I read the Bible? Was it for a long time? I read it for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes** (mention the amount of time you read). **In today's story we're going to learn about a man who read the Bible to a group of people for an entire morning.**

Choose volunteers to play the parts of Nehemiah and Ezra as you tell the Bible story. The rest of the children will be the people of Israel. Guide all of the children in acting out the story as you tell it to them.

Say: **Nehemiah, the governor in Jerusalem, wanted the people that lived in Jerusalem to be able to understand God's Word. One morning during sunrise he gathered all the people together in the town square. He asked Ezra, a minister of God, to read the Bible to them.**

**Ezra stood up on a platform holding the book that contained the Word of God. When Ezra opened the book, everyone stood up. He praised the Lord for His greatness and the marvelous things He had done for His people. The people raised their hands and said in a loud voice, "Amen. Amen!"**

**Then, Ezra read aloud the Word of God so everyone would be able to understand it. He read from the early hours in the morning until it was afternoon. The Word of God touched the hearts of the people and they started to cry.**

**When Ezra was done with the reading, Nehemiah told the people "Don't cry. This is a holy day for the Lord!"**

**So they all went back to their homes and shared a meal with their neighbors. There was a lot of joy and celebration in the city because they were able to understand the Word of God.**

## APPLICATION

### Learning Activity: Bible Study, "The Word of God is my Treasure"

#### Preparation

Cut enough small squares of paper so that each child has at least three.

#### Presentation

Say: **The Bible memorization verse compares the Word of God to a treasure. In what sense is the Word of God similar to a treasure? What makes the Word of God special to us? Allow children to answer. Today, we will make a treasure that contains the Word of God. Write three of your favorite Bible verses on the small squares of paper. Fold the squares and put them in the little box. Each time you want to hear the Word of God, open the box and find the treasure from the Bible.**

**Materials**  
small container for each child (disposable cup, basket, or box)  
paper  
scissors  
crayons or markers  
items to decorate the small containers

When the children are finished writing the Scripture verses, let them decorate their treasure box. If the children you are teaching are too young to write, prepare some Bible verses ahead of time to put in their treasure box. Encourage young children to ask someone in their family to read the Scripture verses to them.

## MINISTRY TIME

#### Preparation

Gather Bibles for each child. If Bibles are not available, copy Psalm 100 and 150 on a piece of paper for each child.

#### Presentation

Say: **God wants you to worship Him by reading His Word everyday. We are going to spend some time today reading His Word. First, we are going to pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word.** Pray for the children. Then, give each child a Bible and help them find Psalm 100 and 150. Say: **When you are finished reading, sit quietly and think about what you read. God can speak to you during this quiet time. If there is something special you want to remember from your Bible reading or quiet time, you may come get a piece of paper and crayons to write it down or draw a picture of it.** Play some instrumental music while children read their Bibles. After a few minutes, ask volunteers to share something special they learned, felt, or heard from God during their Bible reading time.

**Materials**  
Bibles  
paper  
crayons  
instrumental praise  
music (optional)

\*If the children in your class are too young to read, do this activity with them.