

KIDMUNITY | God's Word, My Life

Lesson 03: God's True Story

Small Group Guide

Bottom Line:

The Bible tells God's story, and it can be trusted

Memory Verse:

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8

Activity One: Copycat Copies

Introduction for Leaders

This activity helps kids understand how we got the Bible through copies of copies, and why that doesn't mean we can't trust it. Kids will see how mistakes can sneak in when we play "pass it along," and then learn why scholars always go back to the oldest manuscripts to ensure accuracy. The goal is to help kids see that God has preserved His Word with amazing care.

Supplies Needed

- Index cards or slips of paper
- Pencils or crayons
- Basket or envelope to shuffle cards

Game Instructions

Older Kids (2nd–5th):

1. Have each child write out the memory verse on their card.
2. Collect and redistribute the cards randomly.
3. Have kids copy the verse from the card they received onto a new card.
4. Repeat the process a third time (so each child is copying a copy of a copy).
5. Read a few aloud to see how mistakes grew or words got jumbled.

Younger Kids (K–1st):

Instead of copying words, play “Picture Pass.”

1. Give each child a simple picture card (cross, heart, Bible, flower, etc.).
2. Have them draw a copy on a blank card.
3. Pass their drawing to the next person, who copies it again.
4. Compare the last drawing to the original picture to see how it changed.

Teaching Connection

Say: “Did you see how mistakes slipped in when we copied copies? That’s not how the Bible was preserved. Scholars always go back to the oldest manuscripts and compare thousands of copies to get the most accurate text. That’s why we can trust our Bibles today – they are over 99% accurate to what was first written!”

Discussion Questions (Age Specific)

Kinder / 1st

- What happened to your drawing or picture when it got copied again and again?
- Was the last copy exactly the same as the first one?
- Why is it good that people use the oldest copies of the Bible to make sure it stays the same?

2nd / 3rd

- What did you notice about the memory verse after it was copied several times?
- Why do you think mistakes show up when we only copy copies?
- How does comparing lots of old copies of the Bible help us know we have the right words today?

4th / 5th

- What kind of mistakes did you notice in the verses after several rounds of copying?
 - If you were making a new translation of the Bible, what steps would you take to make sure it was the most accurate?
 - How does knowing we have thousands of old manuscripts give you confidence that the Bible hasn’t been changed?
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Activity Two: Real or Made Up?

Introduction for Leaders

This activity helps kids connect to the idea that the Bible is rooted in real people, real places, and real history. By sorting true and false statements, they'll see that the Bible lines up with history and can be trusted as God's true story.

Supplies Needed

- Two signs: "REAL" and "MADE UP"
- List of prepared statements (mix of true facts and silly fakes)

Kinder / 1st Statements (10 total)

1. The Bible has 66 different books. (REAL)
2. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. (REAL)
3. The Bible says a big fish swallowed Jonah. (REAL)
4. The Bible talks about superheroes with capes. (MADE UP)
5. David killed a giant named Goliath with a slingshot. (REAL)
6. The Bible says Moses built a big boat called the ark. (MADE UP – Noah built the ark)
7. The Bible says there's a talking snowman named Olaf. (MADE UP)

2nd–5th Statements (10 total)

1. Archaeologists discovered the Pool of Bethesda mentioned in John 5. (REAL)
2. The Bible says Jesus was born in Nazareth. (MADE UP – He was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth)
3. The Tel Dan Inscription mentions the "House of David," confirming King David's dynasty. (REAL)
4. The Bible says the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, and Jesus was. (REAL)
5. Space aliens wrote the Bible. (MADE UP)
6. The Bible says Jesus turned water into lemonade. (MADE UP - it was wine)

Game Instructions

1. Place the "REAL" and "MADE UP" signs in different parts of the room.
2. Read one statement at a time.
3. Kids move to the side they think is correct.
4. Reveal the answer and briefly explain why.

Teaching Connection

Say: "The Bible isn't a bunch of fairy tales. It's God's true story about real people in real places. Archaeologists, historians, and fulfilled prophecies all show us the Bible is true and trustworthy."

Discussion Questions

Kinder / 1st Grade

- What makes the Bible different from other books or stories?
- Who are some real people from the Bible you remember learning about?
- Why is it important to know the Bible is true and not just pretend?
- How can you show this week that you trust what the Bible says?

2nd / 3rd Grade

- How does it help you to know the Bible talks about real people and real places in history?
- Why is it amazing that so many prophecies about Jesus came true?
- What does it mean when we say "the word of our God endures forever"?
- If a friend asked you, "Why do you believe the Bible is true?" what would you say?

4th / 5th Grade (4 Questions)

- Which of the evidences we learned (textual preservation, archaeology, fulfilled prophecy, enduring Word) do you think is the strongest? Why?
- Why do you think God made sure His Word was preserved so carefully over thousands of years?
- How does fulfilled prophecy show us that God always keeps His promises?
- What difference does it make in your own life to know the Bible is reliable and trustworthy?