

# KIDMUNITY | God's Word, My Life

## Lesson 04: God's True Story

### Small Group Guide

#### Bottom Line:

*God's Word in every language.*

#### Memory Verse:

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Matthew 24:35*

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## Activity One: Over-the-Top Titles

### Introduction for Leaders

This activity uses fun, exaggerated titles for movies and Bible stories to help kids see that even when the words sound different, the meaning can still be clear. This connects to how Bible translations may use different words but communicate the same truth.

### Supplies Needed

- None

### Game Instructions

#### Step 1 - Movies

Read one exaggerated title at a time. Kids guess the real movie.

- The Furry Giant King of the Jungle → *The Lion King*
- Extremely Rapid and Very Annoyed Birds → *Angry Birds*
- The Young Man Who Refuses to Grow Up → *Peter Pan*  
The Person Who Cleans Up After Other People's Messes with Seven Short Friends  
→ *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*

#### Step 2 - Bible Stories

Read these next and let kids guess.

- The Young Rock-Slinging Kid Who Took Down a Giant → *David and Goliath*
- The Prophet Who Became Fish Food → *Jonah and the Big Fish*
- The Burning Plant That Talked Back → *Moses and the Burning Bush*
- The Three Guys Who Refused to Toast Marshmallows in the Fire → *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*
- The Hungry Crowd That Got Fed With a Lunchable → *Feeding of the 5,000*
- The Man Who Slept in a Lion's Bed and Lived to Tell the Tale → *Daniel in the Lion's Den*

### Step 3 – Create Your Own

Encourage kids to make up their own exaggerated titles for Bible stories.

- The Parting of the Red Sea
- Jesus Calms the Storm
- The Good Samaritan
- Joseph's Colorful Coat
- Zacchaeus in the Tree

### Teaching Connection

“Did you notice how even though the words sounded silly or exaggerated, you could still figure out the real story? That’s a lot like Bible translations. Different versions may use different words, but they all point to the same truth. God’s Word is clear and trustworthy, no matter what translation you read.”

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## Activity Two: Same Truth, Different Words

### Introduction for Leaders

This activity helps kids compare how the same verse looks in different Bible translations. They’ll see that while the words may change, the truth does not.

### Supplies Needed

- Printed cards of John 3:16 in three versions (include translation name and type):
  - **ESV (Word-for-Word):** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

- **NIV (Thought-for-Thought):** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- **The Message (Paraphrase):** “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.”

## Game Instructions

1. Give three volunteers the cards to read aloud to the group.
2. Ask: “What’s the same? What’s different?”
3. Let kids vote on which one they like best. (Hands up, move to corners, or stickers.)
4. Keep score across the group to see which version “wins.”

## Teaching Connection

“Even though each version used different words, the truth stayed the same — God loves us so much that He sent Jesus. Word-for-word translations are very exact, thought-for-thought translations are easier to read, and paraphrases help explain the meaning in everyday language. All of them help us understand God’s Word better.”

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## Discussion Questions

### Kinder / 1st Grade

- Which verse sounded easiest to understand?
- Did the meaning change when the words were different?
- Why do you think God wants us to have the Bible in our own language?
- What’s one way you can remember this week that the Bible is God’s Word for you today?

### 2nd / 3rd Grade

- What did you notice when we compared John 3:16 in different translations?
- Why do you think some translations use bigger or older words and others use simpler words?
- How does it help you to know the Bible has been translated into many languages?
- If a friend asked you, “Why are there so many versions of the Bible?” what would you say?

## 4th / 5th Grade

- What are the pros and cons of word-for-word translations compared to thought-for-thought or paraphrased ones?
- How did the hammock story show us what faith really means?
- Why do you think God made sure His Word could be read in so many languages?
- How can using more than one translation help you understand the Bible better?