

KIDMUNITY | God's Word, My Life

Lesson 05: How the Bible is Organized

Small Group Guide

Bottom Line:

Every part of the Bible tells God's one big story.

Memory Verse:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God... John 20:31

Activity One: Same Story, Different Genres

Introduction for Leaders

This activity helps kids understand what a genre is by showing how the same story can look very different depending on the style. Just as movies and books have genres such as mystery, comedy, action, or science fiction, the Bible also encompasses various genres. Understanding the genre helps us know how to read it and what to look for.

Supplies Needed

- Story prompts (below)
- Genre prompt cards (printed separately)

Story Prompts

- A lost dog is reunited with his owner
- A kid prepares for a big sports competition and learns how to be a winner
- A friend moves to a new town and has to start over at a new school

Genres (with descriptions)

- Western – cowboys, horses, and sheriffs in the Wild West
- Musical – a story where people sing instead of just talking
- Action/Superhero – heroes, villains, and exciting battles
- Mystery – solving a puzzle or discovering the truth
- Comedy – a funny story full of silly mistakes and laughter
- Science Fiction – futuristic technology, robots, or space adventures

Game Instructions

Younger Kids (K-1st):

1. The group chooses one story prompt.
2. The leader picks one genre card and helps guide the kids in retelling the story in that style.
3. Then retell the same story in a different genre to compare the two.
4. If time allows, try another genre or pick a new story prompt.

Older Kids (2nd–5th):

1. Divide kids into two or more teams.
2. Everyone uses the same story prompt.
3. Each team draws a genre card and prepares to tell or act out their story in that style.
4. Teams take turns performing, while the other groups try to guess the genre.
5. If there is time, play again with a new story prompt and different genres.

Teaching Connection

“Did you notice how the story completely changed depending on the genre? Same story, different style. That is just like the Bible. The Bible tells one overarching story about God and His plan through Jesus, but it employs various genres to convey it — including history, poetry, prophecy, and more. Genres make the Bible rich and help us understand God in different ways, not just one.

- History gives us the background of who did what, where they lived, and how God’s plan unfolded through real people in real places.
- Prophecy shows us what God promised would happen in the future and how He was preparing the way for Jesus.
- Poetry helps us express feelings and emotions like joy, sadness, anger, or awe, and it describes God in beautiful ways that we do not always think of.
- Letters provide us with teaching and encouragement on how to live for Jesus every day.

Just as movies and books come in all kinds of styles, the Bible also has different genres. And when we read them, each one helps us understand more about who God is and the big story He is telling through history.”

Discussion Questions

Kinder / 1st Grade

- Why do you think the Bible has different kinds of books and stories?
- What can different parts of the Bible help us learn about God?

2nd / 3rd Grade

- What was the most significant difference you noticed when we retold the same story in
- Why do you think God gave us history, prophecy, and poetry instead of making the whole Bible the same style?
- How does having different genres help you understand the Bible better?

4th / 5th Grade

- How does history in the Bible help us see God's plan unfolding?
 - How does reading poetry in the Bible, like Psalms, help us think about God in new ways?
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Activity Two: Picture the Bible's Story

Introduction for Leaders

This activity gives kids a chance to slow down, reflect, and think about the Bible's big story. By imagining scenes from different Bible genres, kids can picture how each part helps us understand God better.

Supplies Needed

- None

Activity Instructions

1. Have kids sit quietly and close their eyes.
2. Say: "I am going to describe a few pictures from the Bible. As you listen, imagine it in your mind."
3. Read slowly, pausing after each one to let kids imagine:
 - Picture Moses leading a million Israelites between the walls of water in the Red Sea, walking together on dry ground. That is history.
 - Picture Paul sitting at a desk in a small house where he is under house arrest. He is writing a letter. One of those letters went to the Philippians. Imagine him finishing the letter, rolling it up, and handing it to his friend who would then travel hundreds of miles to deliver it. That is a letter.
 - Picture David as a young shepherd boy, lying in a field at night, gazing at the stars while his sheep rest nearby. He pulls out a simple instrument and strums heartfelt songs to his God. That is poetry.
 - Picture words written long before Jesus was born that promised a Savior would come. That is prophecy.
 - Picture Jesus teaching His friends on a hillside, healing the sick, and showing God's love. That is the Gospels.
4. After the last one, invite kids to open their eyes.

Teaching Connection

"Did you notice the different pictures in your mind? The Bible comprises many parts and genres, but they all tell one overarching story about God's plan through Jesus. Each genre adds something important. History shows us what happened. Prophecy shows us what is coming. Poetry reveals

how people felt and worshipped God. The Gospels show us Jesus. The letters show us how to live for Him. All of it works together to help us know God better.”

Discussion Questions

Kinder / 1st Grade

- What was your favorite picture you imagined when we closed our eyes during the reflection?
- If the Bible is like a library, what book of the Bible would you want to check out first?
- Who is someone you could tell this week that the Bible is God’s story for them too?

2nd / 3rd Grade

- Which Bible genre do you think would be the most fun to read, and why?
- Why do you think God wanted His Word to include stories, songs, prophecies, and letters instead of just rules?
- How does knowing that the Bible points to Jesus from beginning to end change the way you think about it?

4th / 5th Grade

- When you think about the Bible as one big story, what part stands out to you most right now – history, prophecy, poetry, or the Gospels?
- How do the different genres of the Bible show us that God communicates with people in many ways?
- Why do you think it is essential to know how the Bible is organized instead of just reading it at random?