

# THE BIG BOOK

1. How would you answer this question? To me the Bible is—

- interesting and exciting—my favorite book.
- interesting most of the time.
- sometimes interesting, but sometimes boring.
- boring most of the time and hard to understand.
- totally boring and irrelevant—I never read it.

2. What is your favorite story from the Bible? Why?

3. Draw a line through the statements that you think are **not** in the Bible.

- a. God helps those who help themselves.
- b. The Lord works in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform.
- c. I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.
- d. In all things God works for the good of those who love him.
- e. Cleanliness is next to godliness.
- f. Do unto others before they do unto you.
- g. Do not judge, or you too will be judged.
- h. All men are created equal.

4. What do you think? Do you **A** (agree) or **D** (disagree)—

- \_\_\_ The Bible is a book of rules.
- \_\_\_ Science hasn't proved the Bible is out of date.
- \_\_\_ The Bible contains contradictions.
- \_\_\_ The Old Testament doesn't apply to today's world.
- \_\_\_ The Bible is a book of mythology.
- \_\_\_ Any translation of the Bible is acceptable.
- \_\_\_ Church tradition is as important as the Bible.
- \_\_\_ The Bible has answers to everyone's problems.
- \_\_\_ The main theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ and salvation.
- \_\_\_ The Bible proves there is a God.
- \_\_\_ The Bible should always be interpreted literally.
- \_\_\_ The Bible is the only book you need to read.

5. What do the following verses say about reading the Bible?

Psalm 1:1-3    Psalm 119:9-16    John 14:26    James 1:21-24    1 Peter 2:1-3



# THE BIG BOOK [ t h e B i b l e ]

## THIS WEEK

The Bible hasn't changed over thousands of years. But our youth, our culture, and our world have changed drastically. Sometimes it's hard to apply the Bible to our lives. Some youth don't necessarily believe the Bible is God's Word or has authority over their lives. This session provides the opportunity to discuss the Bible, what today's young people think of it, and how Christians should use the Bible.

### OPEN

Give the kids a quiz. Write the names given below on poster board or whiteboard so that they're visible to all. They must decide which books are in the Bible and which aren't, without looking at the Bible's table of contents.

Hezekiah	Matthew	Obadiah
Philippians	Uzziah	Silas
Romans	Nahum	Bartholomew
Acts	Numbers	
Laminations	Judas	
Timothy	Deuteronomy	

Or conduct a short Bible quiz, asking questions about Bible characters to test how much your kids know.

### THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Give the kids the opportunity to share their true feelings about the Bible without making any value judgments yourself. It's normal for young people to think the Bible is boring.
2. Ask the kids to share their favorite Bible stories. What do they think the stories say to them about God?
3. You may want to have them use a concordance or another Bible resource to find these. Statements a, b, e and g are not in the Bible. Statement c is in Philippians 4:13; d is in Romans 8:28; and f is in Matthew 7:1.
4. Ask for a vote on each of the statements, corresponding to the way they answered on the TalkSheet. If there is total agreement on one, go on to the next. If there is a difference of opinion, encourage a debate on their ideas.
5. How do these verses apply to your kids' lives? You may want to choose one or two to discuss further.

## THE CLOSE

The Bible is the most sold book in the United States. It's the most sought after book in countries where Bibles aren't available. In fact, it's banned from some countries. The Bible is God's letter to us. He's got loads of important information for us to read and study.

Brainstorm ways that your kids can get into the Bible. Recommend student versions of Bibles including the *Teen Devotional Bible* (Youth Specialties) or the *New Student Bible* (Zondervan). Encourage them to find a version of the Bible that works for them. If an typical NIV is too hard for them to understand, have them find a version that is easier to read.

Challenge them also to read short pieces of scripture at a time. Maybe a few verses or a chapter a day. Have them journal what the verse says to them and how it applies to their lives. See if they can understand how the passage applies to their lives. Sometimes this is hard, sometimes it's easy, but encourage them to stick with it!

You might close by having the kids share their favorite Bible verses with each other. Be sure to share yours and have your other adult leaders do the same. Share why this verse is so special to you and how it applies to your life.

### MORE

- Compare different versions of the Bible with your group. This can be interesting and a good way to point out that there's different versions for different people's needs. If you don't have access to different versions, have your kids do some searching on the Internet. There are on-line Bibles available. Assign them verses from different versions and then compare them later on. Discuss why the versions are different. What makes some easier to read than others? Does it still say the same thing?
- You may want to set up an e-mail distribution list with your group and e-mail them a verse every few days. Include a few simple questions for them to think about when they read the verses. Most kids will read their Bibles, but they need encouragement to do it! Also, you may want to start a small group Bible study and discussion with those who are interested. Check out Youth Specialties resources ([www.YouthSpecialties.com](http://www.YouthSpecialties.com)) for some kickin' materials, including the Creative Bible Lessons series and Downloading the Bible curriculum.