

Bible Bowl Training: Week 10

Grab your Bible, strap on your thinking cap, warm up your page flipping fingers and let's dive into our training!



Warm Up

Find yourself a nice comfortable spot to sit and take a minute to repeat last week's memory verse from Micah to yourself. Spend a moment or two in prayer talking with God about the ways you can do these three things that God asks of you.



Stretch

Before we get started today, let's think about some of the tools you might use if you wanted to plan a trip to a far away country. There's always the internet, of course, with lots and lots of information. Sometimes it can be tricky to know where to look on the internet, so you could also read travel books, ask friends or a travel agent, look at maps...there are lots of tools you might use to help you know more about where you are going. At Chapel Hill, we often talk about life with God like a hike through the woods. When we say this we mean that living a life with God is not something that you just do one day, like cleaning your room. Instead it's something that takes a long time, a lifetime even, to travel from where you are today to all the exciting places and things that God has in store for you. And just like any trip, when we are preparing for the journey, it is important that we use the tools we have available to help. The Bible is one of the most important tools for this journey, but like the internet, if you don't know where to look, it can be hard to find what you need in all those pages!



Exercise

When you're searching on the internet, you probably use a search engine like Google or Yahoo. The Bible doesn't have Google, but it does have some other helpful tools. The first one we will look at today is one you may have already noticed: the introduction to each book. Right before the first page of every book in your Bible you will find a blue-ish purple page with the title of the book and a picture. This introduction page usually tells you a little about what Bible scholars know of how this book came to be written and how it fits into the whole story of the Bible. Let's check out a couple. Start with Exodus. Go ahead and find the introduction page and read it. I'll wait here.....

Okay, so did you learn anything? Did you notice that the story of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt is mentioned? Now, when you go on to read Exodus someday, you'll know a little better what to expect from the story. Now let's try something from the New Testament. How about the Gospel of Mark? Go ahead and read the introduction.

Now you know that in the Gospel of Mark you can find some of the stories of Jesus' tour through Galilee, which just happens to be what we studied right after Christmas in Faith Village. It is a great idea to read the introduction to a book in the Bible before you begin reading it. Understanding more about the writer and the book will help you better understand what the Scriptures mean.

Another helpful tool in your Bible is the dictionary. The Bible is full of words or phrases that you may not have heard before, and some that you may have heard, but don't really know what they

mean. Luckily, your Bible also has a dictionary where you can look these words up to find the definition. The dictionary is in the back of your Bible, right after the book of Revelation. Let's look up a word we've been talking about a lot: Scripture. Before you look it up, think of what you think the word means. Got it? Okay, now, let's look it up in the Bible dictionary. Is that what you thought it meant? Did you learn anything new? I hope so. The dictionary can be a huge help for you, don't forget to use it whenever you're unsure of a word's meaning.

One more tool this week: Maps. The Bible tells the story of God's people, and let me tell you, God's people move around A LOT! As you read the stories in the Bible you'll read many names of many places, tales of journeys across deserts and to towns you've never heard of before. If I tell you I went to Grand Rapids or Battle Creek or Orlando, you might have a good sense of how far I went, the weather there, and what I might have done there. But if I tell you Paul was on the road to Damascus, you might not have any idea where that is. The maps help us get an idea of WHERE the stories are taking place. The maps are the very last pages in your Bible. Let's take a look at the last map at the back of your Bible, titled "Paul's Journeys." See if you can find Damascus on the map. Paul was on his way to Damascus when he became a true believer in Jesus Christ. Now when you read his story in the Book of Acts, you'll be able to turn to this map and see exactly where Paul went as he traveled telling the world about the Savior.

Cool Down

We've come to the end of our Bible Bowl Training, and I hope that you now have an even stronger understanding of the importance of Scripture to our relationship with God. For many, this week's verse sums up the worth of God's Word:

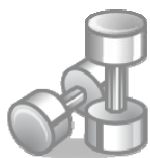
Memory Verse: Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.



Stretch Again

As I'm sure you know, this is our last training session before the big Bible Bowl this Saturday. You've come a long way and learned so much. It is my hope for you that this isn't the end of your adventures with the Bible. The Bible is one of the most important ways God speaks to us, and it just can't work if the Bible sits on a shelf out of sight. You're stretching today is a conversation: Sit down with a parent and talk about what you've learned, what you like about reading the Bible, what you don't like, and most importantly, what you're going to do next. Together, complete the "Faith Village BRO and SIS Kids" Pledge Certificate that you can print off of the Bible Bowl webpage. Bring your completed certificate to the Bible Bowl competition so we can celebrate your pledge together.



New Training Equipment

INTRODUCTION: *The page before the first page of each book in your Bible that gives you some background information about what you will be reading.*

BIBLE DICTIONARY: *Located right after the last page of the Book of Revelation, the Bible Dictionary is a place to look up words you don't know that are used in the Bible.*

MAPS: *Located in the very back of your Bible, Maps help you know more about the setting of the stories you read in your Bible.*