

Bible Bowl Training: Week 9

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



Warm Up

Before you start today's lesson set a timer for three minutes. If the weather cooperates, go outside and run for three minutes, as fast as you can. If the weather is crummy, get permission from a parent and run (carefully!) up and down stairs or around your house for three minutes. When the time is up, catch your breath and think about last week's memory verse. Say a prayer of thanks to God for the strength given to you to keep going, even when you feel tired. Then find a nice comfortable place to sit and go through today's lesson.



Stretch

By now you have learned just about every way a part of the Bible can be referenced to tell you exactly which words to read. We've learned chapter numbers, verse numbers, colons, semi-colons, commas and hyphens! Whew! Last week we learned about the letters in scripture references, but today we will learn about the tiny letters that sometimes appear next to the words in the scripture reading itself! Turn to Mark 1:1. Do you notice the small *a* after the words "good news" and the small *b* after the word God? These little letters mean "look at the bottom of the page" for a **FOOTNOTE** if you want to learn more. A **footnote** is a little note that gives you more information. In most Bibles, the **footnotes** are found at the bottom of the page.



Exercise

Look at the bottom of the page and see if you can find footnote *a* at the bottom of your page. Footnote *a* tells more about verse 1. It says "Or gospel". This means that the words "good news" in verse 1 could be replaced with the word "gospel". Why do you think there are two different choices for what words go in this verse?

You probably know that the Bible is a really old book. But did you know it was also written in several different languages, some of which no one on Earth still uses? It's true! In order for us to be able to read God's word in the Bible, someone had to **translate** the words into English for us. **Translating** can be tricky business. Sometimes a word in one language doesn't exactly exist in another language. An example of this is the French words "fleuve" and "riviere" are both words that mean river, but one means "a river that runs to the sea" and one is an "inland stream". We don't have words that mean *exactly* that in English, so to translate, we might just use the word "river" for both. But when we do that, we lose just a little bit of the original meaning.

Sometimes a word in one language means more than one thing, and we have to guess which meaning the writer was using. An example of that in English is "I read the book." Does that mean "I 'red' the book" last week, or "I 'reed' the book" every night? It's not always clear.

In addition to the difficulty of translating, there is also the fact that the Bible wasn't all written down in one big book all at once. As you know, the Bible is a collection of many books, written down over many years and by many different people and groups. Before we had computers or

copy machines to make lots of exact copies of our books, people copied them down by hand. And sometimes they made mistakes, or copied them differently. So when the Bible was put together, sometimes they had to put together a few different versions of the same story that came from different groups. Sometimes that means the translators had to choose one version over the other.

Look back at Mark 1:1 and find the little *b* after the words "Son of God." Look at the bottom of the page and find the footnote *b*. A lot of times a footnote may begin like this one, with the words "Other ancient authorities..." When the translators choose one set of words from one version over another, they give us a footnote to make sure we still see what the different versions or copies of the story said. In this footnote, we are told that some other versions of the story don't have the words "Son of God" included. Pretty interesting stuff, right?

Ask your parent if they have a copy of a different version of the Bible than yours. If they don't try to find time to stop in the library at church to peek through the different versions of the Bible you can find there. For fun, look up some of our memory verses in both Bibles and see if the wording is exactly the same. Sometimes it is, and sometimes it's not!

Alright, before we finish up let's look at a few other verses that have footnotes. Remember the story of Abraham and Sarah? Find Genesis 17:19. Find the little *z* in the verse and read the footnote at the bottom. Do you remember why Isaac might be called "he laughs?" Read Genesis 18:12 if you don't remember.

Last, let's try Matthew 1:1. There are two footnotes here. These are both helpful because maybe you haven't heard the word "genealogy" before, but you probably do know what "birth" means! And I'm sure you've heard Jesus called the Messiah and Jesus Christ. Well even back when the stories in the Bible were being written down, people called Jesus by both of these names as well!

Cool Down

Learning about the Bible helps us better understand what God wants from and for us. This week's verse will help us remember that sometimes God's calling is simple:

Memory Verse: Michah 6:8b

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?



Stretch Again

This week we talked a little bit about how words can be confusing and hard to translate. Just for fun, submit on the webpage two different ways to use the word "can" in a sentence.



New Training Equipment

FOOTNOTE: footnotes are little notes at the bottom of the page that give you more information.

TRANSLATE: to copy something from one language into another, or from a foreign language into your own.