



DATE(S)

April 23-24, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Step It Up – Week 1 (What’s The Bible?)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

The Bible was written for us
to understand God’s truth.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 4:12
Romans 8:14; Proverbs 3:5-6
Zephaniah 3:17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Crushed It or Crashed It?"

The winter weather is behind us now, right?! To finish it off, we are watching some winter sports footage. Split up into teams or play the game student vs. student as you try to figure out if they "crush it" or "crash it." The first video stops right before the landing, which gives the student(s) a chance to guess, and then the second video plays and shows the landing. Whoever has the highest score wins!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

Who here likes to read directions? Who here doesn't like to read directions? When was a time that you didn't read directions and what happened?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"Step It Up" – Week 1 (What's The Bible?)

April 23-24, 2022

What's up everyone? I want to start off today by trying to figure out who is really good at building things or putting things together? If that's you, raise your hand. There are OTHERS of us who are NOT good at building things or putting things together. Some of you guys who are good at it can just look at a pile of junk, look at or imagine the finished product, and then just build it! Others of you are completely lost. Regardless, I'm sure at one time or another, you have tried to build something or put something together without looking at the most important thing in the box...the directions.

(Teacher's Note: Share a humorous story where you tried to build or put something together without consulting the directions)

In a small way, this is how some of us live our life: just purely by trial and error. We kind of fly by the seat of our pants and just figure things out along the way. While that's not necessarily a bad thing in and of itself, I think many of us do this as Christians. We may not fly by the seat of our pants and make it up, but we often don't have (or don't use!) the tools or guide that can really help us take the right steps to build our faith.

Today, we're kicking off a new series called "Step It Up" and we are going to talk about how we can STEP IT UP and start putting some of the tools/instructions God has given us to put our faith into practice. For this entire series, we will be looking at one very important verse found in the New Testament in Galatians 5:25. Let's look at it now: *"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."*

Now, when this verse talks about the Spirit, it is referring to the Holy Spirit, which we will talk more about next week. The Holy Spirit is the same Spirit that guided Jesus' life and decision-making and if we commit to following Christ and becoming a Christian, that same Spirit will be given to us. It will help us determine the choices we make, the attitudes we have – and whether or not they please God.

Today, I want to look at the first tool we need to STEP IT UP. It's what I'm holding in my hand right now **(Teacher's Note: Hold up a Bible)**. This is a Bible and as Christians, we believe that one of the most important ways to keep in step with the Spirit – loving and obeying God – is to read the Bible. That's what our **THP (or Take Home Point)** is all about today!

The Bible was written for us to understand God's truth!

THE MESSAGE

Now, we say the Bible is a book and that is true to a certain extent, but it's really a collection of books. Think of it more like a library! There are stories, poems, songs, genealogies (the history of a family), and even historical information. All kinds of stuff! As great as this is, we shouldn't see the Bible merely as a source of information. It is MUCH more than that.

Here's another important fact about the Bible...it wasn't written TO us. Parts of the Bible were written to the Hebrew people, to different churches in the first century, and even to specific people. However, the Bible was written FOR us! This beautiful, ancient text has this amazing quality and power to influence our lives and the way we live today. Check out this verse in the New Testament from Hebrews 4:12 – *“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”*

The coolest thing about the Bible is the more we study it, the more it studies us! The more we read it, the more it reads us. Did you notice that last part? *“It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”* When we read the Bible, it will really begin to find out what we are like as people, both the good and the bad. The Bible can show us how much God loves and cares for us, how we can share our faith, how we can be transformed to be more like Jesus, etc., but it can also reveal how self-centered, impatient, and unkind we can be (among MANY other things)!

That's ok, though. The Bible was written for our benefit, and we need to use it! Here are a few ways that the Bible can help us:

-REMIND US: It can remind us of who we are in God and not what the world says.

-Romans 8:14: *“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”*

-CHALLENGE US: It can show us that the way we live our lives is sometimes disobedient to God and not what's best for us.

-Proverbs 3:5-6: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean NOT on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.”*

-ENCOURAGE US: When we are struggling or going through a challenging time in life, the Bible can encourage us!

-Zephaniah 3:17: *“For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”*

THE MESSAGE

(Teacher's Note: Share one way the Bible and reading Scripture has significantly influenced you.)

Students, it is so important for us to read our Bibles. For some of you, this is already become a habit for you. Maybe you do it every day or a few times a week...that's great! Keep it up! Some of you have the desire to read the Bible, but maybe you don't know how and you just need a guide or some help. I'd like to take a step in the right direction and do that today in our closing group discussion.

For our group time today, we are going to do something a little different. We are going to spend some time reading/studying the Bible together using something called **SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)**. You read a passage of Scripture together twice (same verse two times in a row). Then, you make some observations by saying or writing down some words/phrases/ideas that stick out to you...then, we think/talk about how those ideas can apply to our life, and then we close in prayer. It's really simple and it gives us a helpful guide for how to read/study the Bible.

Just like our THP said, **The Bible was written for us to understand God's truth**. We desperately need the truth of God in our lives. Just like our bodies need physical nourishment like food and water, we NEED God's truth for our spiritual health. I hope our group discussions and SOAP study can help us start getting that nourishment today! Let's pray before we start!



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

*****Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.**

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

Now let's do a **SOAP** study, which is an acronym for **Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer**. It's a way to study the Bible.

SCRIPTURE – Have someone read the Scripture out loud two times.

Hebrews 4:12 – *“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”* -

OBSERVATION – Write down words or phrases that stick out to you, that you don't understand, or that are interesting to you. Questions are also great!

APPLICATION – Think about and write down how the Scripture applies to your actual life and how you can live differently because of it this week.

PRAYER – Pray together at the end of your group discussion! Ask God to help you remember and apply what you learned from the Bible today!

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

ACTIVITIES

Encourage the students to take a couple of minutes to write down observations and applications. We want it to be different than simply responding to a question like we usually do. You can set a timer for this, and when it's done, go around and have the students share their observations. Once enough people have shared, move to the applications.

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week
Message script
Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

