**Today’s Bottom Line:** The Bible has a map to help us find the stories of God.

**Theme:** Bible Basics-Learning foundational truths about God’s word

**Monthly Memory Verse:** The word of God is alive and active. It is sharper than any sword that has two edges. It cuts deep enough to separate soul from spirit. It can separate bones from joints. It judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart. -Hebrews 4:12

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| **Make It Personal/ Building Background** |
| **Come together as a small group or girls/boys group and do the following:****Question of the Day:** Go around the circle and have your kids answer the following: When was the last time you took a trip that your parents had to use a map for? Where did you go?**\*\*Have kids recite the books of the bible to leaders for prizes\*\**** If they can recite both the Old and New Testament, they will receive a Book of the Bible Pen and a Ring Pop.
* If they recite only OT books or only NT books, they receive a Ring Pop.

**Pre-Large Group Warm Up**Ask These Questions to review:* How many parts does the Bible have? **(two: Old and New Testament)**
* How many books are in the Bible? **(66 books)**
* How many books are in the Old Testament? **(39 books)**
* How many books are in the New Testament? **(27 books)**
* What four books make up the gospels? **(Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)**

**Reading the Bible Story:** *Joshua 1:9* Have your student go to the Table of Contents to find the book of Joshua. Then have kids point to the chapter (1) and then point to the verse (9). Read the verse to the kids.**Large Group Transition:**“We will join with everyone else in other Elementary small groups to worship and hear a true story from the Bible, so please be kind and listen to the large group leaders and teachers. Listen for instructions on where to sit, when to stand, when to be quiet and be sure to respect everyone in this large group time of worship.”Lead to Large Group | **Resource Team:** Books of the Bible page [with MV motions]Books of the Bible pens **Campus:** Bibles; Ring pops for either Old or New Testament |

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| **Application- Bible Story Review: Bible Drills** |
| **What You Do:** * Divide kids into pairs and make sure they have one Bible.
* Remind the students of how to look up a verse. First, we go to the Table of Contents, then we find the book, then we find the chapter, then we find the verse. Have them recite after you “Table of Contents. Book. Chapter. Verse.” Repeat 3-5 times.
* Guide teams through finding the first verse on the paper- Hebrews 4:12.
	+ Have them go to the 1. Table of Contents. Once they’ve all found it, go to 2. Book of Hebrews, then 3. Chapter 4, then 4. Verse 12.
* Once everyone is clear on how to play, place the buzzer in the middle of the group. Once they find the verse, they should hit the buzzer. See which team can find the verse first. If there is some trouble, slow down and find it together one step at a time.
* Use the bible drill list from below for more verses to use.

Bible Drills List: * Hebrews 4:12
* Joshua 1:9
* John 3:16
* Genesis 1:1
* Ephesians 4:32
* Psalm 5:3
* Jonah 1:17
* Jeremiah 29:11
* Proverbs 3:5
* Micah 6:8

**What You Say:** * The table of contents is a great way to begin looking up verses in the Bible. Like almost anything, the more you practice, the easier it will become. We want to know the Bible because we want to know God. ***[Bottom Line] The Bible has a map to help us find the stories of God.*** So, let’s continue to read it!
 | **Resource Team:** nothing**Campus:** Bibles, 1 buzzer per group |

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| **Memory Verse** *The word of God is alive and active. It is sharper than any sword that has two edges. It cuts deep enough to separate soul from spirit. It can separate bones from joints. It judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12*  |
| **What You Do:** * Write the memory verse on a big piece of paper on the wall.
* Have children recite the memory verse together.
* Once you’ve said it a few times together, cover up one of the words with a sticky note then try to repeat the verse again.
* Repeat, covering up 1-2 words at a time until all words are covered or as time allows.

**What You Say:*** Like our verse says, “*the word of God is alive and active*”, and like our ***[Bottom line]: The Bible has a map to help us find the stories of God.*** How exciting is that! When we memorize God’s word it can be alive in our brain forever! Keep working on memorizing the verse all month long.

**\*\*Make sure each kid has a MV bracelet for September\*\*** | **Resource Team**: Laminated MV page [with Books of the Bible page] and MV wristbands**Campus**:large paper; sticky notes |

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| **Pray**  |
| **What You Do:** * Take prayer requests on sticky notes, in a journal, or on a prayer wall.

**What You Say:** * “Dear God, thank you for giving us the Bible to learn about you. Thank you for providing the Bible as a map. Help us to use the Bible to find our way in life. We love you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”
 | **Resource Team:** nothing**Campus:**Sticky notes optional |

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| **Discussion Questions (Time Permitting)** |
| * What do you think is the hardest part for people when it comes to reading the Bible?
* What things keep you from reading the Bible?
* What is one thing you need help with right now that you could search for in the Bible?
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