

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Ask God to help you be diligent in regular Bible study. Take notes on what he teaches you this week through his amazing gift to you, his Word.

Bible Exploration & Award Aims:

Club members will:

- understand that the Bible is God's message to them, written by people through the Holy Spirit.
- want to read the Bible.

Scripture:

2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16

Bible Memory:

names of New Testament books; extra verse (optional): Psalm 119:9

Supplies:

GET READY—paper in four colors, marker, scissors

1st ACTIVITY AWARD—assorted colored fabrics, scissors, fabric glue, fabric paint, paintbrushes, stapler; for each member: light-colored fabric (8 by 12 inches [20 x 30 cm]), 20-inch (50 cm) thin dowel rod; optional: buttons, stickers, glitter, sequins

BIBLE EXPLORATION & AWARD—supplies for Focus of your choice (Sharing Letters—bag, plain paper, envelope for each member; Whispering Words—none); copies of Peter and Paul interview; optional: costume box, index cards

BIBLE MEMORY—copies of song (p. 62); for each member: Bible Memory Card

2nd ACTIVITY AWARD—scissors, hammers, nails, craft glue; for each member: plastic container with a lid, small magnifying glass; optional: craft knives, tape

GAMES—your choice

PRAYER—for each member: copy of Unit 1 Parent Page (p.68)

Next Meeting's Preparation:

Collect snack canisters for Wilderness Skills award.

God Writes to Us

GET READY 5-10MINUTES**Do Ahead:**

Write each word of this message on a different-colored piece of paper: *Who wrote the Bible?* Cut each paper into several puzzle pieces. Hide all the pieces around the room.

Divide club members into four groups. Have each group search for the puzzle pieces of one color and put them together. When all pieces have been found, have teams read the message, switching the words around as needed.

Today we'll search for the answer to this question. Open with prayer.

DESIGNS ACTIVITY AWARD

20-30MINUTES

**Do Ahead:**

Read the Designs Activity Award (handbook p. 157). Plan to do the first option, Personal Flag, of requirement 1. (Or choose another option.) Gather supplies.

Make personal flags together.

BIBLE EXPLORATION & AWARD 15-25MINUTES**Do Ahead:**

Familiarize yourself with Bible award requirement 1 (handbook p. 10) and this Bible Exploration. Gather supplies. Choose and prepare one of the Focus options. If you choose the Sharing Letters Focus, print each club member's name on a slip of paper and put the names in a bag. *Option:* Find out which club members do not have Bibles and arrange to provide them.

Focus (choose 1 option)*Option 1—Sharing Letters*

Pass the bag of names around, letting each person take one out. Hand out paper and envelopes. Write one encouraging sentence to the person whose name you

drew, such as "You're a nice person" or "I hope school goes great for you tomorrow." When you're done, sign your name, fold your letter, put it in the envelope, write the person's name on the envelope, and seal it. Then bring it to me.

When you have all the letters, pass them out to the people whose names are on the envelopes.

- **What should you do with the letter you received?** (Read it.)
- **Why?** (To find out what it says and who it's from.)

Let club members open their letters and read them.

Hold up your Bible. **I have another letter for you right here. The Bible is God's letter to you.**

- **What should we do with it?** (Read it.)
Let's find out how God wrote the Bible for us.

Option 2—Whispering Words

Seat club members in a circle. Whisper a message in the ear of one. Have that person pass the message on by quickly whispering it to the next person on the right, and so on around the circle. Ask the last person to repeat aloud what he or she heard. The message will probably have changed considerably. If it hasn't, congratulate the group on their clarity.

- **Why can it be hard to get a clear message to people in real life?** (A message on an answering machine may be garbled; an email or letter may have words left out or misspelled; we don't always say what we mean.)

Messages can get confused and mistakes happen. But God has a special message that he gave in a special way—with no mistakes! Let's find out how.

Study Scripture

Ask two good readers to be Peter and Paul. Give them copies of the "Peter and Paul Interview" on the next page. (*Option:* Give them simple costumes, too.) You play the part of the interviewer.

Do the interview. Then do Bible award requirement 1, part 1, together (handbook p. 10).

- **How do we know the Bible is true and reliable?** (The Holy Spirit helped the

writers say what God wanted them to say; the Holy Spirit is God; etc.)

- **Why do you think God had his Word written down instead of just having older people keep telling his message to younger ones through the years?**

(He wanted it to be accurate, easy for anyone to read anytime.)

The Bible is a big book. It's a good thing that verses have "addresses."

They're called "references." Do Bible award requirement 1, part 2, together now.

- **Why is it important to understand Bible references and how to find them?**

Have club members look up

2 Timothy 3:16. Reread the verse.

- **What are four reasons God gave us the Bible?** (For teaching—telling us about God and how we should live; for rebuking—showing us the wrongs we do; for correcting—telling us how to make our wrong ways right; for training in righteousness—teaching us how God wants us to live.)

- **Why do these four things help us?** (Knowing about God lets us love him in return and become his children; knowing what we've done wrong lets us ask forgiveness; being told how to do right helps us do better; knowing how God asks us to live helps us get along with others and please God.)

Apply

- **What do you want to learn from the Bible?**
- **Where and when can you learn from the Bible?** (In church, Sunday school, Pioneer Clubs; with your family; on your own.) Discussion should reach the conclusion that anytime, anyplace will work.

It's a good idea for you to have a regular time for you and God to be alone together, when you can read his message to you.

- **When is a good time for you to do that?** (Before school, after dinner, before bed.)

Have club members turn to Bible award requirement 1, part 3. Explain the directions.

Above the references, write a time when you will try to read the Bible regularly this week. Allow time. Let volunteers tell what they're writing. *Option:* If your club members don't take their handbooks home, have the week's

readings copied on slips of paper or index cards.

Let's thank God for his Word. Tell him "thank you" or tell him when you will read it. Have sentence prayers.

BIBLE MEMORY 8-10MINUTES

Do Ahead:

Memorize the names of the New Testament books in order. *Option:* Use New Testament bookmarks—see www.shoppioneerclubs.org or the Pioneer Clubs catalog to order. Be prepared to teach the song on page 62. Gather supplies.

Begin teaching the song (p. 62). Hand out Bible Memory Cards. *Option:* Hand out New Testament bookmarks.

▼ **Extra verse (optional):** Memorize Psalm 119:9.

WILDERNESS SKILLS ACTIVITY AWARD

20-30MINUTES



Do Ahead:

Read the Wilderness Skills Activity Award (handbook p. 211). For requirement 1, plan to do the first option, "Insect Viewer." (Or choose another option, if you prefer.) Gather supplies. *Option:* Bring insects to view, or plan to go outdoors.

Make insect viewers. *Option:* Use them to look at insects.

GAMES (OPTIONAL)

Choose games from pages 70-71.

SERVICE PROJECT (OPTIONAL)

Inviting Designs

For this unit, make flyers to use when inviting friends to come to club.

PRAYER 5-10MINUTES

Do Ahead:

Gather supplies.

Let's ask God to help us read his Word, the Bible, this week and learn what he wants to teach us. Have each club member pray silently for the person on his or her right.

Give each club member a Unit 1 Parent Page (p. 68) to take home. Or hand it to parents when they pick up their kids.

LEADER REFLECTION

- **What did you learn about your club members' understanding of the Bible as God's Word?**
- **How can you encourage club members to make time to read their Bibles in the coming week?**

PETER AND PAUL INTERVIEW

INTERVIEWER: We're talking to Peter and Paul, two men God used to write down his words. Peter, you were one of Jesus' 12 disciples. You wrote some books in the Bible, right?

PETER: Yes, I wrote 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

INTERVIEWER: How did you know what to write?

PETER: I explained that in one of my books. Will someone read 2 Peter 1:20-21?

INTERVIEWER: (Reads the verses aloud or chooses club members to do so; defines any unfamiliar words; asks club members who the Holy Spirit is.)

PETER: The Holy Spirit told me what to write. The other Bible writers had the same experience. Right, Paul?

PAUL: Right! The Holy Spirit helped me write several books. One of them says nearly the same thing Peter said in his book. Read 2 Timothy 3:16 to see what I mean.

INTERVIEWER: (Reads the verse aloud or chooses club member to do so.)

PAUL: The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible through us.

INTERVIEWER: Peter and Paul, thank you for helping us see how special God's Word is.

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