

Guidelines for lesson 6

God's Word for Us

AIMS OF LESSON 6

For each learner to:

- a. Start the habit of a dedicated time with God every day.
- b. Learn three steps for this.
- c. Be able to find a reference from the Bible.
- d. Be eager to read the Bible.

TO START THE MEETING

START WITH PRAYER

LAST WEEK'S PRACTICAL TASK

- "What was the Practical Task last week – Lesson 5?" *[To say the Lord's Prayer daily.]* "Let's practise it now." *[Say it all together, or take turns.]*

TODAY'S TOPIC

- Say: "Today we will learn how God speaks to us through his word, the Holy Bible. It is 'more precious to us than gold and sweeter than honey' (Psalm 19:10).

ANSWERS TO THE LESSON REVIEW:

- Check that members can give correct answers to the Review questions. The correct answers are below:
Question 1: a) Adnan; b) they grow weak and die.
Question 2: 'b' is the only fully correct answer. Sentence 'a' is not correct because it says 'only'
Question 3: Old, New
Question 4: Prepare; Read; Pray

A) THIRSTY FOR GOD'S WORD (Questions 1-5)

Question 2

 **Read** the whole of this question.



Ask:

- “Do we really thirst as much for God’s Word as a baby thirsts for milk?” *[Personal responses.]*
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B) THE HOLY BIBLE IS GOD’S WORD (Questions 6-10)

Question 8



Read the whole of this question.



Ask:

- “Some non-Christians think the Bible seems like a human book. It was written by humans and talks about human history. How can we explain that it is still the Word of God?”
[This is a difficult question. But question 8 explains how the prophets ‘spoke from God’ as they were ‘carried along by the Holy Spirit’. God breathed his thoughts into the writers’ minds and was active in the lives of his people, see point 14. That is why there is so much about humans but it is still God’s Word.]

Cultural Clue: Muslims and the Inspiration of Scripture

Muslims have a different understanding of holy writings. For them, the Quran is Allah’s eternal word, written in heaven and revealed through the Angel Gabriel to Muhammad. Muhammad merely wrote down in Arabic exactly what Gabriel dictated. Christians, however, believe that God inspired or literally ‘breathed into’ humans to write Scripture. God used the human writing process for his divine purpose and saved it from error.

Muslims see the Arabic Quran as the only word of Allah; all translations fall short of this status. Christians believe that the Bible can be translated into any language and still remain just as much the Word of God.

Most Muslims believe that the Bible has been changed. Your learner(s) may be convinced of its reliability but may still need help in how to explain that to their Muslim friends. Also, they may be puzzled about variations in the wording of different translations, or about why so much of the divine scripture describes the activities of humans.

Question 10



Read the first paragraph.



Ask:

- “In what languages was the Bible originally given? *[Hebrew in the Old Testament and Greek in the New Testament.]*

- “Do you know who translated the Bible into your mother tongue?” *[If you or the learner(s) don't know, find out before next week from the internet, e.g. following the links on http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible_translations_by_language.]*
- “Do you have a copy of the Bible in your mother tongue?” *[This question is relevant if you are studying an English translation with the learner(s). If they have a different mother tongue it is good for them to have a Bible in that language too. Some translations are online at www.biblegateway.com and others can be obtained from www.kitab.org.uk/Scriptures.aspx. Also, on the internet are audio versions of the Bible in many languages.]*

Say:


- “It is fine to have more than one translation of the Bible. This helps us see the different aspects of the meaning. It does not mean we have altered the original text.”
- “We thank God for the people who worked hard to translate and print his Word into our language. In this way he speaks to us in our own mother-tongue!”

Cultural Clue: Storylines and God's Self-Revelation

The Bible is structured as a great Story spanning from Genesis to Revelation – from creation to new creation. At the core of this story is God sending himself to us. The Quran contains statements about Allah's character, and prescriptions for living according to Allah's standards; it has a mix of short stories throughout, but they are not in chronological order and there is no unifying narrative running through it. In Islam, God revealed himself by sending a book, but in Christianity, God revealed himself by sending himself, and this self-sending is at the centre of the Bible's story.

C) THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BIBLE (Questions 11-15)

Questions 12-14

 **Read** some or all of the material in questions 12-14, depending on the time available and the background knowledge of your learner(s). These are important things for them to understand if they do not do so already.


 **Ask:**


- “Which Testament includes the *Tawrat* (Books of Moses) and *Zabur* (Psalms)?” *[Old Testament.]*
- “Which Testament is known as the *Injil* (Gospel)?” *[New Testament. In many Muslim languages the whole New Testament is called the Injil. Strictly speaking there are four injils included within the New Testament.]*
- “Does the New Testament cancel the Old Testament?” *[No, we need both of them. Together they form God's precious Word.]*

Question 15

Say:

- “Now let’s open our Bibles or New Testaments at the ‘List of Contents’. Find 1 Peter in this list and use that to find the right page number.” *[Help the learner(s) if needed.]*
- “Let’s turn together to 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 3” *[Every learner should find the place in their own Bible or New Testament. Help them if needed.]*

 **Read** 1 Peter 1:3. If learners have different translations, explain how the words vary slightly but this helps us to see different aspects of the meaning in the original Greek language.


 **Read** the speech bubble.

Say:

- “If we set aside a special time each day to be with God, it helps us grow strong and healthy, like baby B at the start of this lesson. Let’s discuss how to do this practically.”

D) A DAILY TIME WITH GOD (Questions 16-22 & Supplement 1)

Question 18

 **Read** the entire question.


Ask:

- “What did you write for parts a) and b)?” *[Personal answers. Ask each and every learner to say what they wrote. If any members left these answers blank in their books, remind them to fill all the answers. When we do this we have to think about their own opinions and so we learn much more.]*

Say:

- “For our daily time with God, we should each choose the time and place which suits us best. Let’s make it our regular habit!”

Question 22

 **Read** the second paragraph.


Ask:

- “What did you write?” *[Ask each and every learner to share their viewpoints.]*


Say:


- “Now let’s all turn to Supplement 1 at end of our books, called ‘My Daily Time with God’. We will work through it together”
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Supplement 1 My Daily Time with God


 **Ask:** “What is Step 1 in our daily time with God?” [*‘Prepare’.*]

Supplement Step 1: *Prepare*

 **Read** the whole of step 1: ‘Prepare’.


 **Ask:** “What should we do in this Step?” [*Firstly, confess our sins and ask God to cleanse us. Secondly, ask God to speak to us through his word and help us understand it.*]


Supplement Step 2: *Read*

 **Ask:**

- “What is Step 2 in our daily time with God?” [*‘Read’.*]
- “What should we do in this Step?” [*Read a passage of the Bible.*]

Say: “Let’s practise this Step with a passage of the Bible. Turn to 1 Peter 1:13-15” [*everyone should find the place in their Bibles or New Testaments*]

 **Read** 1 Peter 1:13-15, as an example of the first stage of step 2, ‘Read’.


 **Ask:**

- “Which phrase especially leaves its impression on you?” [*Different learners will choose different phrases*]
- “This phrase is what God is pressing on your heart today. What will you do to remember this important point? [*e.g. write it in a notebook, or colour it in their Bible, or memorize it*]
- “What will you do to obey this thing God has told you today?” [*various responses. We grow spiritually not just through reading God’s Word but through obeying it*]

Say:

- “No baby would suck milk into its mouth and then spit it out again! But that is what we do if we read God’s Word and then disobey it!”

Supplement Step 3: *Pray*

 **Ask:**

- “What is Step 3 in our daily time with God?” [*‘Pray’*]

Say:

- “Prayer is talking with our heavenly Father. What different things will we talk with God about?
 - *See the different phrases of Step 3 which are in bold font:*
 - *we thank God for his Word*
 - *we ask him to help us put it into practice*
 - *we thank and praise our Lord*
 - *we pray for our own needs*
 - *we listen to anything God wants to say to us*
 - *we pray for the needs of others*
 - *we may choose to say the Lord’s Prayer.*



Read the section under the instructions, ‘pray for the needs of others’.



Ask:

- “Do you think this is a good list of things to pray for? Are there other things you prefer to pray for instead?” *[This list is just to give people some ideas of what to pray for. It may be a helpful framework but each person is free to change it as the Lord leads them.]*
- “Do you have any questions about how to have a daily time with God?” *[Let the learner(s) ask any questions.]*

Say:

- “Your task this week is to put it into practice. Turn to the end of Lesson 6 and let’s read this week’s Practical Task together.”

TO FINISH THE MEETING

ASK:

- “What difference will today’s lesson make in your life?”
[Each person should share, including you as advisor.]

READ the Lesson 6 Practical Task.

SAY:

- “Each day this week, please try to spend a short time with God. You can do this alone or with another believer; you choose the time and place. Follow the steps in Supplement 1.” “Also, remember to do the home study for lesson 7.”

CLOSE IN PRAYER asking our Father God to help us spend a dedicated time with him each day this week.