

Session 5: God's Word

Partner Discussion Question

How have you viewed and read the Bible up to this point in your life?

1. Rule Book: It tells me what to do and warns me about what not to do
2. Spiritual Protection: A verse a day keeps the devil away
3. Map: It helps me know God's plan for my future, spouse, job, etc.
4. Spiritual cup of coffee: It helps me wake up and get the day started right
5. Family doctor: I turn to it when I need something to make me feel better

Two Ways of Viewing God's Word

Through what lenses do you view God's Word? Me-centered or God-centered?

Small, Me-centered lenses:

Big, God-centered lenses:

Importance of Balanced Teaching

Focusing on one part of God's Word for us leads to inconsistent growth.

We need the whole of God's Word to become the full people He intends us to be.

In our teaching, we need to balance God's blessing with God's purpose.

Effects of Me-Centered Teaching of Scripture

On young children:

On teens:

Group Activity: Blessing and Purpose

- Moses and the 10 plagues – Exodus 7:1-5; 9:13-16; 12:37-38
- Crossing the Jordan River – Joshua 3:14-17; 4:19-24
- David and Goliath – 1 Samuel 17:20-47

1. Who did God bless and how? (Many times this is the easier answer to find. It usually involves the most prominent characters in the story.)

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2. What is God's greater purpose for the blessing? (This answer takes more practice to find. It is the part of the blessing that spills over to other people who may not be as noticeable. Many times these people are unbelievers.)

Family Devotions

No matter what Bible story or passage you are sharing, you can help your children be God-focused rather than self-focused.

As you present Bible stories, help your children understand that:

- God is the main character in every story.
- God is always at work to make Himself known.
- God blesses His people for a greater purpose that includes others.

Integrate these concepts into the Bible story introduction, the story itself, discussion questions, and the story application.

Memory Verse:

Introduce a verse about God's heart for the nations each month. Review it each week. Memorize the verse in fun way. Add hand motions, act it out, add rhythm, or sing the verse.

Psalm 46:10	Psalm 67	Psalm 86:9	Psalm 105:1	Isaiah 49:6
Isaiah 45:22	Habakkuk 2:14	Malachi 1:11	Matthew 24:14	Matthew 28:19-20
Mark 16:15	Luke 24:46-47	Acts 1:8	Romans 10:12-15	Revelation 5:9

Singing:

Include songs that help your children worship and praise God for who He is and songs that tell about God's love for the whole world.

Impact of God-Centered Teaching of Scripture

Discipling children to know God's purpose and minister to others will impart to them a purpose greater than themselves. It gives them a balanced perspective of God's blessings in light of His purposes.

Children who have a God-centered understanding of the Bible:

- Know God has blessed them to be a blessing to others.
- Know they exist for God, to bring Him glory.
- Know their identity, deeply loved children of God and participants in God's story.