

Junior Soldiers

Unit 2 : Lesson 6

Inspired by God #2



PURPOSE : To help children to understand why there is an Old and New Testament and the reasons for the different kinds of writing in the Bible.

“We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and that they only constitute the divine rule of Christian faith and practice”

Doctrine 1

“God helped good people to speak and write what is in the Bible, so that from it we may learn the way God means us to live.”

Doctrine 1 (simplified form)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Matthew 5:17

Luke 4:14-21

Hebrews 4:12

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

Philemon 1:19

The word ‘bible’ comes from the Greek word for ‘books’ or ‘library’ and it is very appropriate for our Christian Bible which is really a collection of 66 books by different authors, in different languages and in different literary styles, written over a 2,000 year period. Its writers include prophets, kings, fishermen and peasants.

It is divided into the Old Testament, containing thirty-nine books, and the New Testament, containing twenty-seven books. There is a break of 400 years between the Old Testament and the New. The Old Testament focuses on the relationships between the Jewish people and God, while the New tells the gospel (‘good news’) story of Jesus and the formation of the Christian Church.

If you wanted to know everything about the movie *Star Wars*, you would read books about it by the actors, director, producers and film critics; you may also read books about science fiction movies, hit films of the 1970s and special effects; you would also try and get your hands on production notes and reviews. Different writers; different literary styles; written at different times - to try and get a complete picture.

Junior Soldiers need to understand that the whole Bible is important because the whole Bible is about humanity's relationship with God, expressed in a wide range of styles and formats.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- Collect a range of books as outlined in 'choosing a story' activity
- Print out two sheets (one for each group) with a range of cartoon characters throughout the past few decades.

For 'The Main Thing'

- Butchers paper or whiteboard for brainstorming
- 40 balloons, 2 green shopping bags (or similar)
- Stocking legs for use in three-legged race
- Collect a sample of some of the books or type of writing for the 'collection of books' section.

For 'Tying In'

- Have available supplies for the kids to choose from e.g. paper, pens, Bibles, playdough, craft supplies, camera, musical instruments, paint etc.

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.



Connecting In

Choosing a story ...

- For this activity you will need to provide a range of books and stories that cover a variety of genres.
- These might include – encyclopaedia, street directory, Bible, storybooks (picture and text only), books about facts and trivia, books of short stories, books of poems, songs and pictures.
- Provide a number of picture storybooks that are fun or have a good message.
- Let the kids engage with the variety of books and talk with them about what is different about them, what are they for, what do they tell us, how would you use them etc.
- Before finishing this activity, get one of the children to choose a story that you can read together.



- **Link:** We have just been looking at a variety of different sorts of books. They all share information with us in a different way and for specific purposes. The Bible is made up of a variety of different sorts of ways to share an important message. As we talked about last lesson, the Bible was inspired by God, he shared his message with special people who recorded it down. These people were all different and had a different part of the story/message to share.
- Today we are going to explore what is different between the Old and New Testaments in the Bible as well as look at how different sorts of writing were used to share God's story with us.

Old & New ...

- For this activity you will need to divide the group into two. This can be done two ways, either divide the group evenly including leaders and children or divide the groups into one group leaders and one group children. (If you are the only leader you might like to ask some of the Big Buds to come and help for this activity or have some other adults of varying ages come and lend a hand for the lesson/activity).
- You will also need to print off some cartoon characters that span across the generations. Choose 10 - 12 different cartoon characters for the two groups to try and name.
- The winning team is the one who is able to name the most cartoon characters both old and new.
- You might want to place a time limit on this activity.
- **Link:** Today we have been looking at both old and new cartoon characters. They are different but all really cool in their own way. The first cartoon characters have helped to form the new ones as the designers have learnt new things in drawing and special effects.
- We are also going to look today at the Old and New Testaments in the Bible and the important part they play in telling God's story



The Main Thing

Story Sentence...

For this activity you will need to be in groups of four or have four volunteers to come at a time. Stories will often have a beginning, a middle, sometimes a twist and an end. Assign each of the volunteers with a section of the story and get them to add their part in turn. Beginning, middle, twist and end.

Example:

- Beginning – “I woke up this morning...
- Middle - ...we went outside to play...
- Twist - ...it started to rain...
- End - ...luckily I had an umbrella so that I could play in the rain!”

Each part of the story is important. We are going to look at two important parts in one ‘big story’, looking at the Old and New Testaments in the Bible - God's story of love for us. As we are looking at this see if you can pick the parts that might be the beginning, the middle, the twist and the end.

God's Story...

(When you are sharing this information with the kids it would be good to do it in a storytelling way. You might like to use a big, old Bible or you might be able to get one of those book boxes—looks like a book but has a lid that you can put things in, you can often purchase them at cheap shops/reject shops.)

The Old Testament shows us In the beginning ...

- God wants to be our friend ...

What is a friend? What makes a good friend?
Spend a few moments with the group brainstorming what friends are like and how they behave towards each other.

Examples: Friends spend time with each other, don't hurt each other physically or emotionally, they're nice to each other, respect each other's feelings, etc.



- Through the stories of all the families in the Old Testament, we hear about how they chose not to be 'God's friend'.
- They hurt God by not respecting how he wanted them to live.
- God sent his messengers (many of them were called 'prophets') to invite them to be his friend again.
- But... many still didn't listen.
- They needed someone to help them.



2 groups – 10 balloons each – 2 green shopping bags (or similar). The challenge for both of the groups is to be the first to blow up all the balloons.

When the groups finish, congratulate the group that finishes first.

But... can you put all the balloons into the shopping bag?
(The balloons will generally be blown up to a point where 10 of them will not fit into the shopping bag.)

Sorry, but you will need to try again as you did not have all the information that you needed in order to complete the challenge. Try the challenge again and congratulate the team that completes this first (they'll have to blow up the balloons just a little bit, not fully).

To complete this task you did not have everything that you needed. You needed someone to help you by giving you the full information. So just like the families in the Old Testament – they needed help. How did God help them?

- In the New Testament we read about how God sent Jesus—about His life, His teaching and His death.
- Then God gave us the Holy Spirit to help us respect God and live the way God wants us to live.
- The disciples (followers of Jesus) and other believers went about telling others in lots of different ways about Jesus and God and how they want to be connected with us.

Connected: three-legged race.
You will need some legs of stockings to use in this activity.
Have a three-legged race with everyone in your group.

Being connected to God is like having a three-legged race with Him connected to you all the time; in the ups and downs of your life and everything that happens to you.



- While the Bible is finished and printed, we—as followers of God—are still adding to the story of how God interacts with people. We are part of God’s unfolding story of how He and humans do life together.

Collection of books...

The people that God use to write the Bible were all different and were skilled in different ways and went about communicating the truth and important message in different ways and formats.

I have a collection of different styles of writing and also where that sort of writing is found in the Bible. Let’s look at them together:

- A **newspaper** reports what is happening (Acts 24:1–9, as the early church began, the book of Acts recorded specific events that took place)
- We write **letters or emails** to people we know to keep in touch (Philemon 1–7 is part of a letter from Paul to Philemon)
- **Poetry** is a way of writing that can be very creative with words (1 Corinthians 13:4–7)
- Sometimes we can collect **sayings, proverbs or quotes** in a book (Proverbs 3: 5–8)
- Song books contain lyrics (the words) of **songs** (Psalm 150. The psalms were written to be sung; many of them rhymed in their original Hebrew language.)
- A **genealogy** (family tree) lists people in a certain family (Matthew 1:1–6, 16)
- Books used by the police and the courts and also in sport contain **rules and laws** outlining what is acceptable and unacceptable (Colossians 3:12–17)
- Made up short **stories** can teach us valuable lessons (Luke 12: 16–21)
- **History** books record important information (2 Samuel 5:3–5)
- Stories about people’s lives are called **biographies** (Exodus 2: –10 with Deuteronomy 34:5–7)
- When we predict something that we believe is going to happen it’s called **prophecy** (Isaiah 11:1–2, tells of the coming of Jesus. Verse one refers to David’s father, Jesse; remember Jesus was born into David’s family line.)
- **Teaching and preaching** are common in the Bible, especially from Jesus (Matthew 7:24–29)

These are some of the ways people communicated the message from God, there are heaps of other ways that we can communicate a message, especially today, and we are going to have a look at some of that now.

Tying In

Important messages ...

- Encourage the kids to think about some of the key messages/truths that we get from the Bible.
- Brainstorm together.
- For this activity the children might like to work in small groups or even as individuals.
- Choose a key message/truth that you want to communicate to others.
- How would you choose to communicate this today?
- Some suggestions are: would you write a story, a poem, song/chant/rap, would you draw a picture/poster, would you give a speech, make a movie, create something, text or write a blog?
- It would be good when finished to share these with the other groups. It would also be good to share these messages with the wider church community either on display or as part of the service.



Home & Beyond

Print off the Home & Beyond cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journal or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

Inspired Words For Us ...

We have been talking about the Bible today and how God has used some special people to communicate His important messages for us. We have looked at Old and New Testaments and also different forms of writing. This week it would be good to read some old and new and some different types of writing.

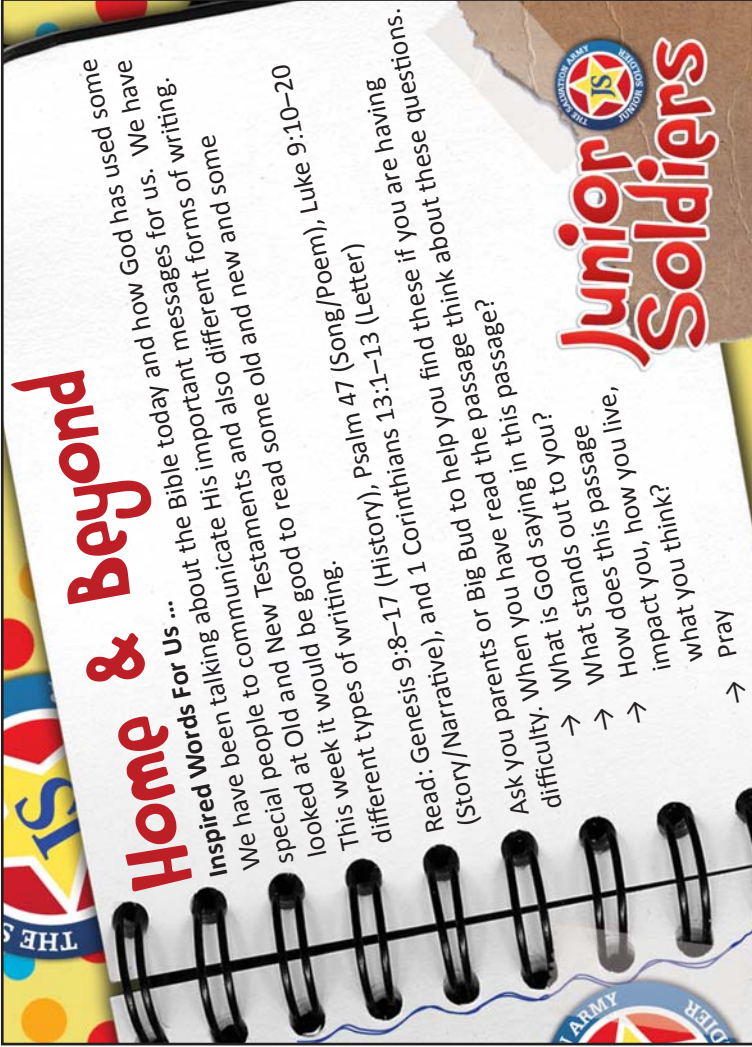
Read:

- Genesis 9:8–17 – History
- Psalm 47 – Song/Poem
- Luke 9:10–20 – Story/Narrative
- 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 – Letter

Ask you parents or Big Bud to help you find these if you are having difficulty.

When you have read the passage think about these questions.

- What is God saying in this passage?
- What stands out to you?
- How does this passage impact you, how you live, what you think?
- Pray



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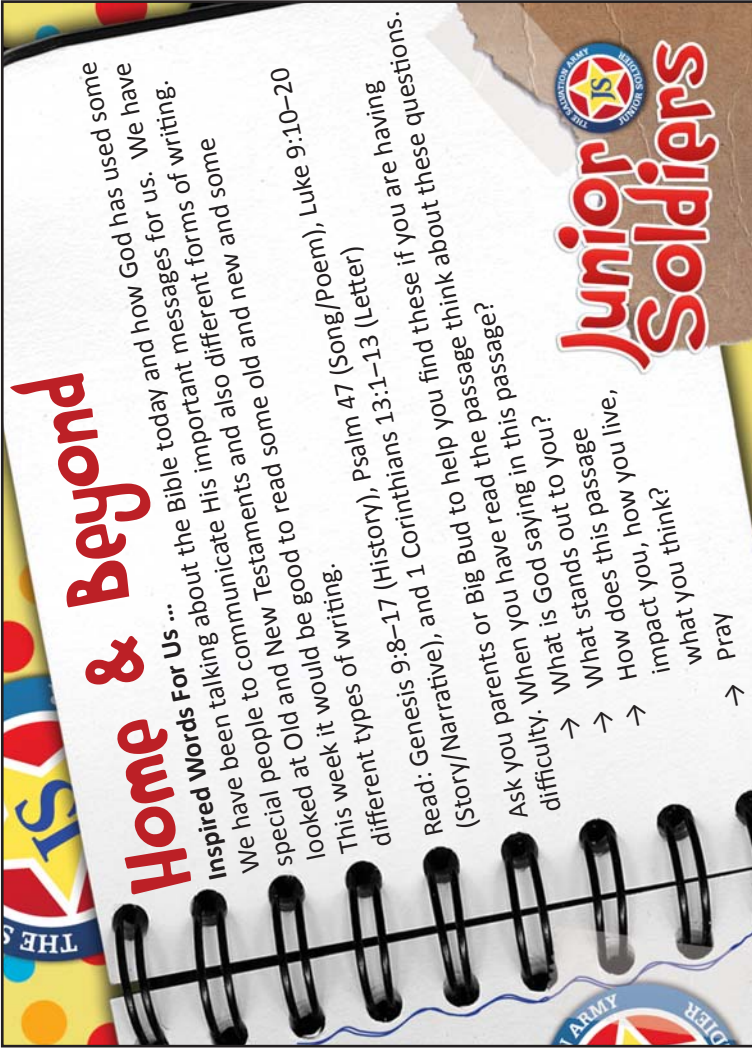
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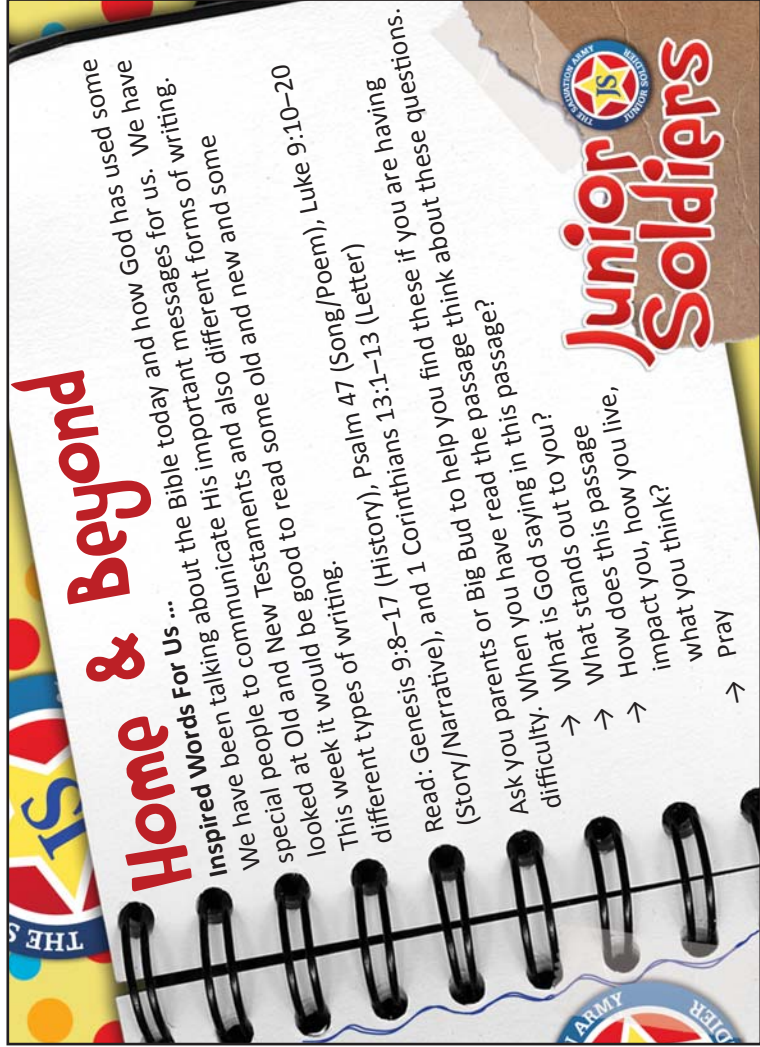
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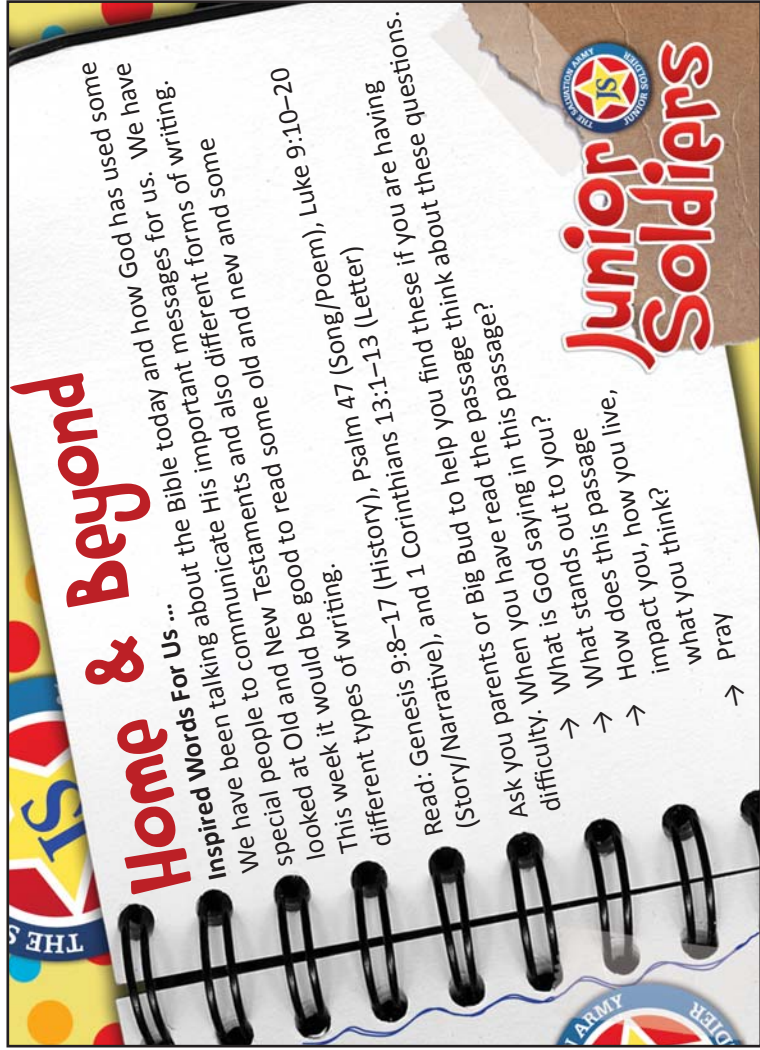
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