

Aim of lesson

To communicate the basic truths that

- The Bible records the word breathed by God
- Through it the Spirit of God can change us

and by so doing to encourage the young people to read it.

That the young people might consider the development of the Bible, understand the dedication of people in the past to preserve it and so to learn to value what we have.

Bible background

2 Peter 1:21 - the general principle.

Exodus 24:4-8; Joshua 24:26; 1 Samuel 10:25 - identifiable writers.

Compare the end of 2 Chronicles with the beginning of Ezra - probable writers.

Review 1 Chronicles 29:29; 2 Chronicles 9:29, 12:15 - possible writers

Preparation required

Read through the students' notes so that you are really familiar with the historical events. A lesson which is basically imparting information can be difficult to make interesting so you need to be able to assess how much extra information to give to keep their enthusiasm and prevent the basic story becoming lost in a fog of facts.

If you do not have a book such as 'God's Living Word', by Derek Banyard, try to borrow a copy. Apart from an excellent source of information it contains many colour illustrations which you can use to help in the lesson.

Suggested outline of lesson

Read through the page in the students' notes with the young people asking them to fill in what they know or what they can find out from encyclopedias, and supplementing their knowledge with your own. They can fill in as much or as little as they wish. They may wish to add things that particularly interest them or they may prefer to keep the story simple.

Relevance to our lives

The last two questions for this lesson in the students' notes are very important. Help the young people to appreciate that these men had a great desire for all men and women to be able to know about God's salvation. The lesson for us is to respect God's word and read it

We should thank God for them and for his care for us in that he ensured his word is available to us.

Prayer

Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thy commandments make me wiser than mine enemies; for they are ever with me. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments; for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. (Psalm 119: 97-104)

Other suggestions for activities

Finding out about the Dead Sea Scrolls may be an interesting investigation if the young people are not familiar with the story.