

Bible Lesson

## 51. I am Alive: The Bible



Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it."

Luke 11:28

## I am Alive: The Bible

We talk to God in prayer. He talks to us in the Bible. The Holy Bible is the most amazing book ever written. From the first page until the last, it is God's love story. He is looking for a family on earth to be his own.

For more than 1,500 years, God spoke to 40 men. God told them what to write down in the Bible. Every word is from God's heart to yours. Every word is true.

The **Old Testament** starts with God creating the world. It tells stories about God calling a family to himself. These are the Jewish people in Israel.

The Old Testament is full of tales about good and bad people. God asked them to obey. When they failed and were sorry, he forgave them. You can find prayers, songs, poems, and funny sayings in these books.

The **New Testament** starts with Jesus coming to earth. The first four books – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – called the gospels, tell about the life of Jesus.

The book of Acts explains how the Christian church started. The New Testament also has letters written to these young churches. It is the ongoing story of God's plan. The New Testament invites the whole world to join God's great big, loving family. That includes you!

## Questions

1. What is the Bible?
2. What are the two main parts?
3. How can you be a part of God's story?
4. Do you have your own Bible? How much have you read?

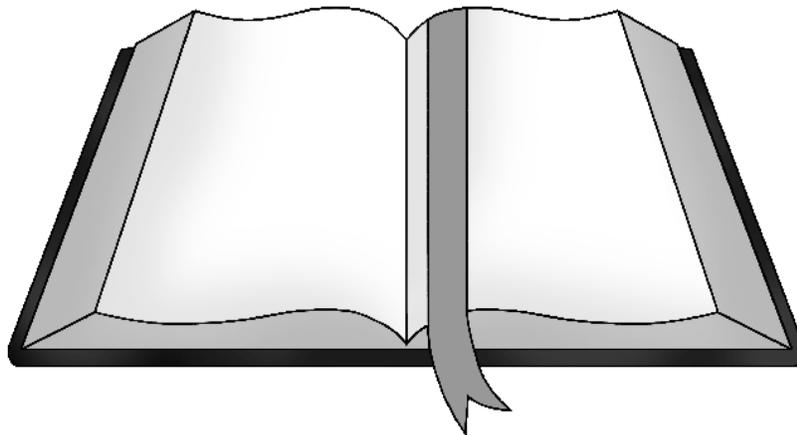
### Pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for writing the Bible. Thank you that I can trust it. Please help me to read some of it every day. Please help me listen as you talk to me in the Word of God.

Amen

Write in the empty pages: The Bible is God's love letter to me.



Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

### Before you read:

#### Activate Prior Knowledge

- Why do people read and study the Bible?
- Have you read any of it? What do you like about it?
- What is your biggest question about the Bible?

### Bible Basics

Write these words on the board: "the Bible; the Holy Bible; Scriptures, and the Word of God." Have kids draw = signs between them to show that they all mean the same thing. Give each child a Bible and reread the story above as they show you the full Old Testament and New Testament. Bring in some Bibles that are only the New Testament. Bring in a variety of versions and explain that some have been carefully translated into words that are easier to understand, for example, the New Living Version and the New International Reader's Version. Teach them how to use the Table of Contents and how to look up verses from Bible references. For example, "Luke 11:28" means the book of Luke, the eleventh chapter, the 28<sup>th</sup> verse in that chapter. Compare Bible verses in different translations. Have races to see who can look up a few verses first.

### Light unto my Path

The Bible gives us answers to our question and solutions to our problems. The Bible is a light guiding us on our journey in life. First, learn this famous and simple song (and verse – Psalm 119:105): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GncLqKJOvQ8>

On a piece of paper write down one of the questions below (How should I treat my enemies?) and lay it on a table. Write down the scripture reference (Luke 6:25) and wrap it around a flashlight. Write down the answer, the scripture (Love your enemies,) and tape it to the wall. Let the kids help you do this for all these questions. Turn out the lights and let the flashlight (Scripture reference) lead you to the answer. While the child is finding his way through the darkness to the answer, the kids can sing, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path."

How should I treat my enemies? (Luke 6:27)

Should I go to my friend's house today? (Proverbs 25:17)

How can I make a good decision? (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Which path should I take? (Psalm 32:8)

How can I become a child of God? (John 1:12)

My friend is mad at me. What should I do? (Proverbs 21:14)

What does God expect of me? (Micah 6:8)

### On your MARK, Get Set, GO!

Many people suggest that the gospel of Mark is the best book in the Bible to start reading. Why? It is short and packed with active stories about the life of Jesus. Give each child an easy-to-read Bible to take home. Draw a race track on a poster board. Track their reading progress each week until they cross the finish line (finish reading Mark). Have the kids share what they are learning. Reward them with prizes when done.

## **A Thumb-Sized Journey**

Give each child a Bible that has the Old and New Testament. Have them thumb through it alone, asking God to teach them about his Word. Then, go through it with the class and tell them just a little about a few key books. You may use the guide below.

### **Old Testament**

**Genesis:** God creates the earth and humans and calls a family to himself.

**Exodus:** The Israelites leave Egypt and God gives the Ten Commandments.

**Deuteronomy:** God gives Moses more laws while the Israelites live in the desert.

**Joshua:** The new leader of the Israelites brings them into the promised land.

**1 and 2 Samuel:** God calls David to become the king of Israel.

**1 and 2 Kings:** Fascinating stories about the good and bad kings of Israel.

**Ezra:** The Israelites return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

**Esther:** A young Jewish girl in the king's palace saves the nation of Israel.

**Psalms:** David (mostly) wrote these songs of praise when he was a shepherd boy.

**Proverbs:** These wise sayings of King Solomon can help you make smart decisions.

**Isaiah:** He was a major (very important) prophet, warning the Israelites to return to God.

**Ezekiel:** This prophet saw visions and begged the Israelites to obey God... or else!

**Daniel:** He was thrown into the lion's den because he would not bow down to an idol.

**Jonah:** This prophet did not obey God and found himself in a whale-sized fish.

### **New Testament:**

**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John:** These gospels (Good News) stories tell the life of Jesus.

**Acts:** How the church of Jesus Christ got started and spread around the world.

**Romans:** A letter the apostle Paul wrote to explain the way to be saved.

**1 and 2 Corinthians:** A letter the apostle Paul wrote to new believers about living as Christians in a sin-filled city.

**Colossians:** A letter Paul wrote from prison to a church he started in Colosse (Turkey).

**1 and 2 Peter:** Two letters Peter wrote to new Christians to encourage and teach them.

**Revelation:** The apostle John wrote this book telling what will happen in the future in heaven and on earth.

## Kids in a Candy Store

What is your favorite book in the Bible? Hmmm...is it Genesis with an ark full of animals tossing about in the waves? Ezekiel's stories of bones dancing in the desert? Is it the book of Acts? We hear about arrests, miracles, ships in storms, snake bites, and the church of Jesus Christ spreading like wild fire. Hmmm...sometimes when you hold the Bible in your hand and try to decide what book to jump into, you feel like a kid in a candy shop. It all looks so yummy, and it is!

Get 66 pieces of candy (one for every book in the Bible.) Put the candy in a pile. Set up the two signs below. Give the kids a Bible and teach them to use the Table of Contents. Name each book of the Bible but in random order, hopping between the Old and the New Testaments. Have the kids sort the candy into the Old or New Testament. When done, munch on candy while you read the verses below.



### What the Bible says about the Bible

**Psalm 119:105:** It is a light for our paths.

**2 Timothy 3:16:** Scripture is God breathed and useful to teach us.

**Psalm 119:103:** God's words are sweeter than honey.

**Hebrews 4:12:** It is living, active, and sharper than a sword.

**Isaiah 55:11:** As God's word goes out, it will not return empty.

**Romans 10:17:** Faith comes from hearing the Word of God.

**John 1:1,14:** Jesus himself was called The Word.

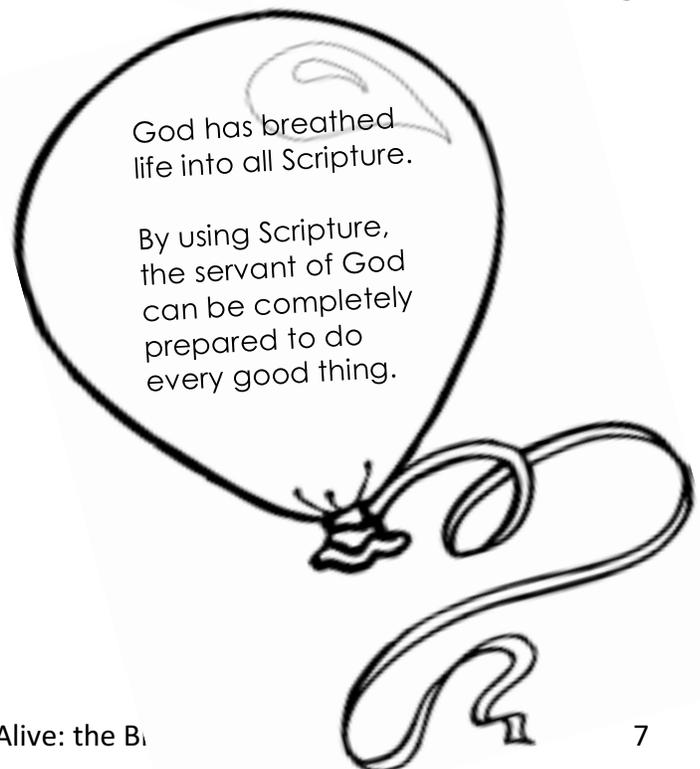
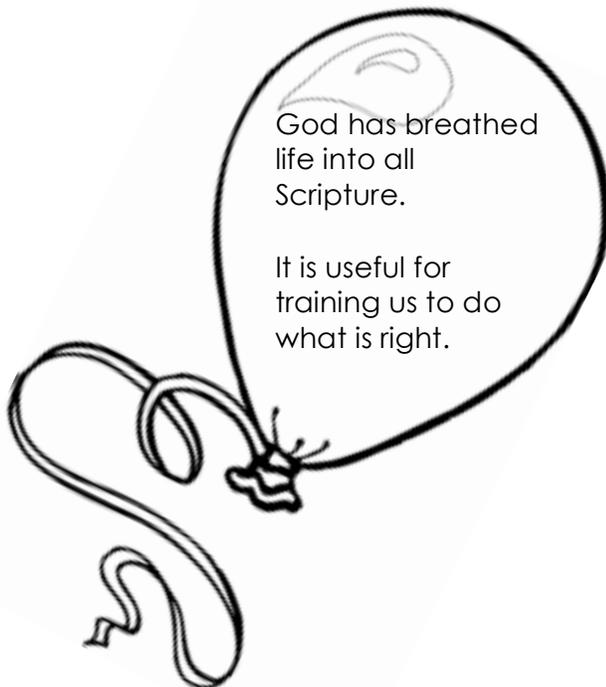
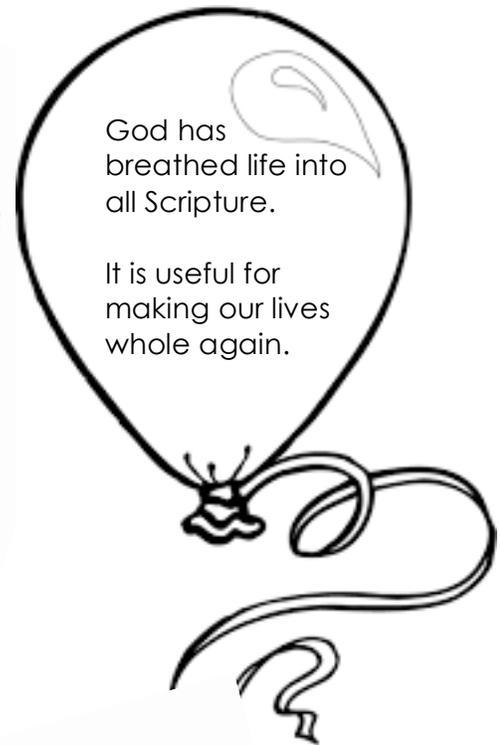
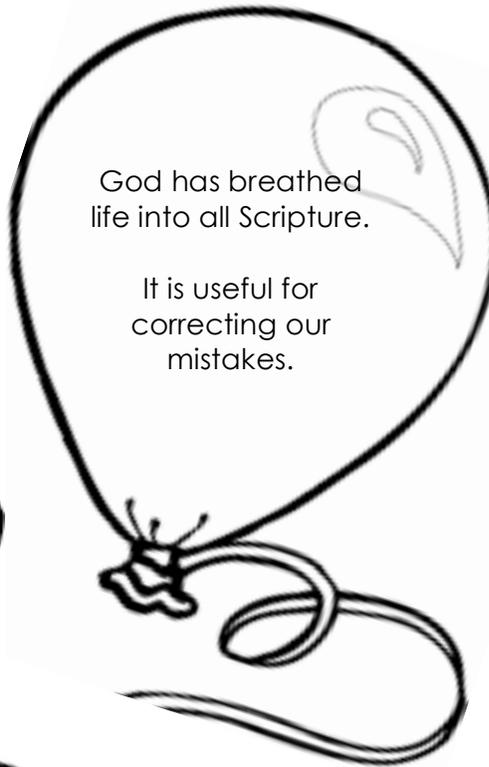
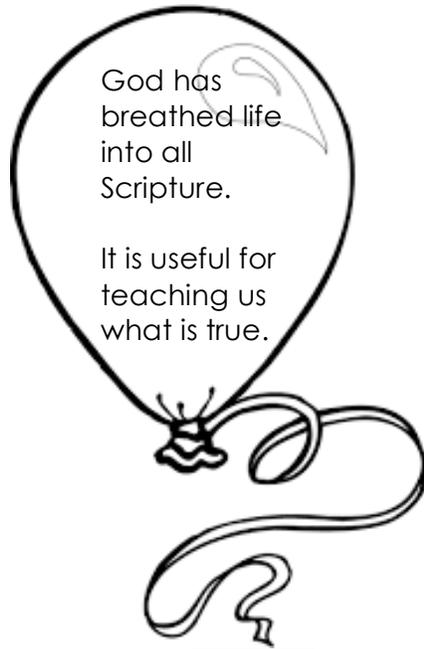
**Joshua 1:8:** If you read and obey the Book, you will have success.

**Luke 11:28:** If you want to be blessed, hear and obey the Word of God.

Now, you can be like a kid in a candy shop yourself and find your favorite verses about God's Word: <https://www.openbible.info/topics/scripture>

## God-Breathed Balloons

Look up and read aloud together 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NirV): "God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing." Wow! That is one important book, and certainly worth reading every day. Say: "God has breathed life into all Scripture." Blow up a balloon. Using permanent marker, draw a simple book outline. Children write on the balloons what you see below. Do this for all the balloons. Turn them into prayers (Lord, thank you for Scripture. Please help me read it so I can do what is right. Amen.) Hang the balloons around the room.

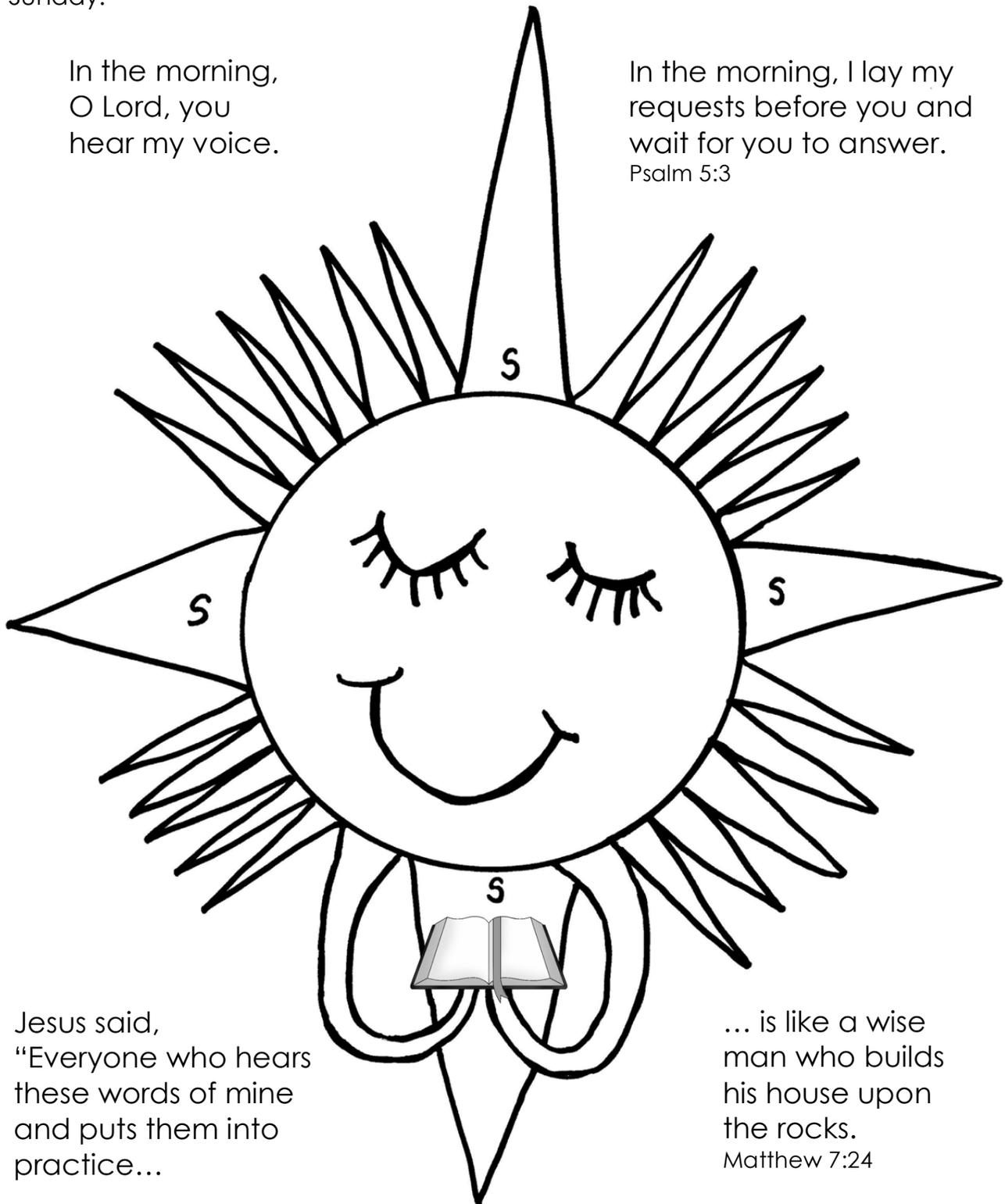


## My Morning Quiet Time: The Bible and Prayer

Each morning, get up a little early to spend time with God. Talk with him in prayer, and hear from him by reading the Bible. It takes about a month to start a new habit. Color in one ray of sunshine for each day you have a quiet time. Color in the sunshine's face when the rays are completed. The **S** stands for Sunday.

In the morning,  
O Lord, you  
hear my voice.

In the morning, I lay my  
requests before you and  
wait for you to answer.  
Psalm 5:3



Jesus said,  
"Everyone who hears  
these words of mine  
and puts them into  
practice..."

... is like a wise  
man who builds  
his house upon  
the rocks.  
Matthew 7:24

## Bible Basics Concentration

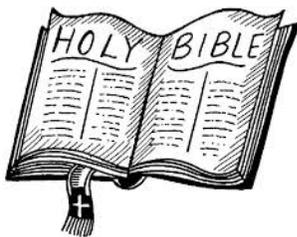
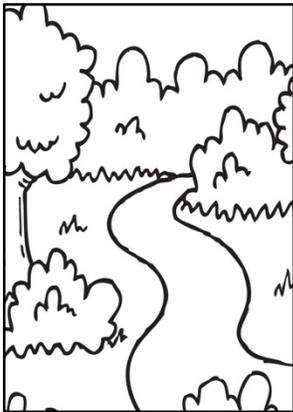
Photocopy onto card stock and cut into squares one set for every two children. Lay the cards on a table in a grid face down. Take turns turning two cards over one at a time, trying to make sets. When someone makes a set, they can go again. The one with the most sets is the winner.

<b>a.</b> Who wrote the Bible?	<b>a.</b> 40 different men	<b>b.</b> Where is the book of Genesis?	<b>b.</b> The first book in the Old Testament
<b>c.</b> What is a gospel?	<b>c.</b> Good News books about Jesus' life	<b>d.</b> Where are the gospels?	<b>d.</b> first four books in the New Testament
<b>e.</b> Who gave men words to write the Bible?	<b>e.</b> The Holy Spirit	<b>f.</b> What is the best-selling book of all time?	<b>f.</b> The Bible
<b>g.</b> How many languages is the Bible in?	<b>g.</b> New Testament is now in 1,500 languages.	<b>h.</b> How does God talk to us?	<b>h.</b> God talks to us through the Bible.
<b>i.</b> The Bible is God's _____ _____to me.	<b>i.</b> love letter	<b>j.</b> Those who hear the Word of God and obey it will be...	<b>j.</b> blessed

## Bible Bookmark

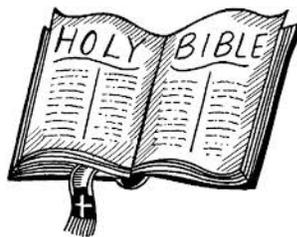
Personalize, color, and decorate these bookmarks. Photocopy this page onto card stock. You can hole punch the top circle and thread some gold cord through it to make a tassel. Have the kids make one for their own Bible and two for friends. Does your friend own a Bible? You can get a full Bible in an easy-read version for under \$5:

<https://www.christianbook.com/nirv-childrens-holy-bible-softcover/9781623370626/pd/370620?event=Bibles|1001886>



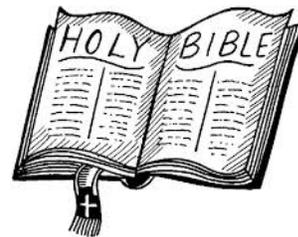
**Your word is  
a lamp for my  
feet and a light  
for my path.**

Psalm 119:105



**Your words  
are sweeter  
than honey  
to my mouth.**

Psalm 119:103



**Blessed are those  
who hear the  
Word of God  
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Luke 11:28