

Bible—Fact or Fiction



Why Should the Bible Matter to Me?

Key Faith Foundation: The Bible Is a Map to Guide Your Life

Key Scriptures: Psalm 119:33-40, 65-68, 97-105

grapple schedule (see pages 4-5 for descriptions)

5 minutes	grapple community
10-15 minutes	grapple games and clues
10 minutes	grapple time
15 minutes	grapple team time
10 minutes	grapple team reports
5 minutes	grapple prayer and dare

Supplies ▶ Bibles, *Grapple* DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, slips of paper, poster board, markers, ball of yarn

grapple community: 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the *Grapple* DVD.

grapple games: 10-15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at mygrapple.com.

grapple clues

Have kids write the answers to this week's Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. The winning team gets the Grapple Button (see page 5).

CLUE 1 [105 points]: Find a Bible verse that talks about how God helped guide someone during a tough time.


CLUE 2 [612 points]: Find one example of a direction the Bible gives specifically to children.

CLUE 3 [928 points]: Discover a favorite flavor of bubblegum for each person in your Grapple Team.

CLUE 4 [981 points]: Discover who in our class has ever wanted to be an astronaut.

grapple time: 10 minutes

Lead the entire class in the following:

In Teams  *Have kids get into their Grapple Teams. Give each team one full sheet of paper and one slip of paper.*

Let's imagine each team lives on a separate planet, which is completely different from earth. As a team, come up with a description of the planet you live on, and write it on the sheet of paper. Then write on the slip of paper the most important instruction someone would need to know about living on your planet. But make sure you don't give away what kind of planet you live on. For example, if your planet is sweet and made entirely of bubble gum, you might write, "Don't forget to wear your no-stick shoes and bring your toothbrush."

Allow time. Gather all of the slips of paper and sheets of paper, and mix them up. Give a planet description and an instruction to each team, but make sure teams don't get instructions for the planet you've given them. Have teams read their messages aloud and try to guess what kind of planet they're going to before reading the planet description.



How did you feel trying to guess what type of planet you were going to when the instruction didn't match up or apply to your planet? How is that like or unlike how you feel when you read the Bible? Does everything always match up for you in the Bible? Explain.



Do you think the Bible really applies to every part of our lives? Can the Bible possibly help us know what to do about stuff that wasn't even around when the Bible was written? Explain.

I'm going to call out some things that weren't around when the Bible was written. Stomp your feet if you think the Bible talks about this issue, or lightly clap your hands if you think the Bible doesn't have anything to say about it.

Call out the following, pausing after each one: watching SpongeBob SquarePants, wearing bikini swimsuits, eating too many Big Macs, and chatting online.

We didn't agree on all of these. It makes me wonder: If the Bible was written a long time ago, does it really have anything to say about the kind of stuff we're dealing with today? Do you ever wonder: Why should the Bible, such an old book, matter to me today? Let's grapple with that.

grapple team time: 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 53-54. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

grapple team reports: 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 54. Have teams present their reports.

grapple prayer: 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: *Direction Prayers*

Stand and face north as you thank God for providing the Bible as a map to guide your life. Ask for help in following the directions God provides.

Option 2: *Psalm Prayers*

Read Psalm 119:33-40 quietly to yourself as a prayer to God.

grapple dare

The Bible is a map to guide your life. The whole Bible is God's Word to you to guide you and direct you in the ways he wants you to go. Even though you might not understand everything right now, when you dig deep into God's Word, you'll find the Bible has something meaningful to say about every issue you will face in your life today.

Here's your grapple dare: I dare you to look to the Bible for a specific direction this week. Check out one of these verses for practical advice: Ephesians 6:1; Philippians 3:8; Galatians 6:2.

Remember to go to mygrapple.com this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.

grapple team guide

In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.

Does the Bible really have anything to do with our lives today? Read the following verses and see if they apply to anything you deal with. Draw a line between a verse and the issue you think applies to it. If you don't think a verse applies to any issue, cross out the verse reference.

Verses

Issues

Philippians 4:8

cheating on a test

Leviticus 19:11

wearing a bikini

1 Timothy 2:9-10

eating too many Big Macs

Exodus 23:1

talking about others behind their backs

Philippians 3:17-19

watching SpongeBob SquarePants

Read Psalm 119:97-105.

List at least four ways these verses say God's Word can serve as a guide. In which of these ways do you most need the Bible to guide you in your life? Explain.

Read Psalm 119:65-68.



What do these verses say you can learn from the Bible? How can learning these things keep you from wandering off the path God has planned for you? Give some examples of what God's guidance might look like in your life.

Read Psalm 119:33-40.

What do these verses say you'll find when you follow God's commands? How can the Bible help you find this? How can you use the Bible as a map to guide your life?

With your Grapple Team, draw a map on a piece of poster board. From what you learned above, name some things or places you'll visit when you use the Bible as a map for your life. Be sure to include some of the promises you just read about as part of the drawing.


grapple team reports

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: Yarn Toss

Stand in a circle, and toss a ball of yarn back and forth. Hold on to the yarn as you toss the ball to someone else. Share what you discovered about why the Bible should matter to you.

Option 2: Reality Report

Give a report of what you discovered in an out-of-breath, "reality-TV" style.