

KEY VERSES

Psalm 12:6-7; Revelation 22:18-19; Jeremiah 36:4, 22-23

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

God has been protecting His Word for thousands of years so each generation can know about Him. The students need to realize that God has given to His people (the church) the responsibility of caring for His Word.

LESSON DEFINITIONS

Accurate: free from mistakes or error

Generation: time period between the birth of parents and the birth of their children

Illegal: not allowed by men’s laws

Illuminate: To enlighten intellectually with knowledge or grace

Important: something that has great value

Original: the first of something, not a copy

Preserve: to protect from harm; to keep safe; to guard

Responsible: can be trusted with duties or tasks

Revelation: The act of disclosing or discovering to others what was before unknown to them; appropriately, the disclosure or communication of truth to men by God Himself.

TEACHER PERSONAL STUDY NOTES:

GOD’S WORD MUST STAY THE SAME!

Can you spot the differences? The first picture is complete. The 2nd picture has added extra things (place an X over these items). The 3rd picture has taken things away (place an O where things should be, but aren’t).



PICTURE 1 (COMPLETE)



PICTURE 2 (USE Xs)



PICTURE 3 (USE Os)



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CHILD TEACHER GUIDE: LESSON 3



What would happen if the original Scripture papers had gotten wet or dirty?

PRESERVATION:

TRUTH IS PRESERVED



CHILDREN’S EXTRA: SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

This week, give each student two pieces of paper and a pen. Instruct them to make two exact copies of the verse and to give one to a family member, and another to a friend or neighbor. Additionally, for the mission, ask students to count the number of Bibles in their homes and to write this number on a paper and put it in the envelope. Tell them to protect and bring the envelope back next week.

Teacher Note: The third piece to God’s four-part plan to **illuminate**** mankind is **preservation****. What value would there be in giving mankind a divine **revelation****, inspiring someone to pen down that divine revealed truth, and then letting what had been written go by the wayside? It would be futile. The Author’s Words would be wasted.

INTRODUCTION

We know now that God has revealed His Word, and that He supervised His Word being written down on paper so that others could read it. But what if God had stopped there? What would happen if those first writings had gotten wet, dirty, crumpled, lost, or burned up in a fire? Surely, God had a plan in place to make sure that we could still read His Word today.

The answer is **Preservation****. **Preservation**** means that God has been supervising the copying of His perfect Word for thousands of years. Revelation 22:19 tells us that God will preserve His Word forever so that each new generation of people can know about God.

God Promised that He would Preserve His Word.

READ: Psalm 12:6-7

ASK: According to verse seven, how long will God preserve His Word? (Forever)

Teacher Note: The psalmist recorded several doctrinal facts concerning the **preservation**** of God’s Word that had been given through inspiration. It says, “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.” This teaches us that the very words (not just an implied message) are pure. Each word was given with care and calculation so as to convey exactly what God desired to reveal. “Purified seven times” speaks of its absolute perfection. There is no more refinement needed by man. There is nothing else that is to be added or taken away from it to increase its value or level of perfection (Psalm 12:6-7). Verse 7 then says, “*Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt **preserve**** them from this **generation**** for ever.*” With such emphasis placed on God’s Words being penned and purified to perfection, does it not seem logical that God would also **preserve**** it? The Lord is the one watching over His Words to see them **preserved****.

LESSON THREE

It has always been a very important job for someone to handle the Word of God. Some people have tried to change it to say something other than what God had said. God gives strict warning about adding to or taking away from His Word.

READ: Revelation 22:18-19

ASK: What does God say will happen to those who take away from His Word? (God will take away his part out of the book of life.)

Some people have tried to burn every copy that they could find just because they don’t like what God had to say.

READ: Jeremiah 36:4, 22-23

ASK: What did the king do to the Word of God? (He cut it and cast it into the fire.)

Some countries have even made it **illegal**** to have a copy of God’s Word. However, today we can be thankful to God for using His faithful servants over the years to faithfully and **accurately**** copy down each and every word (at first) by hand and (later) by automatic printing press!

God used His people to **preserve**** His Word. In the book of Numbers, we see that in the Old Testament times a special group of God’s chosen people were called priests. Those priests were given the **responsibility**** to protect and copy God’s Word.

In 2 Timothy 3:15–17, we learn that the Apostle Paul referred to these copies as Scripture and declared that this copied Scripture was just as powerful as the original writings of God’s Word. We are able to have accurate copies of God’s Word today because the New Testament church was commanded by God to continue the **preservation**** process which had begun by the Old Testament priests.

Teacher Note: **Preservation**** in the Old Testament had been assigned to the Jews (Rom. 3:2). The Kohathite priests were given the **responsibility**** to protect, care for, and copy the Scriptures so that each respective **generation**** would have an **accurately** preserved**** copy of the Scriptures (Num. 3:31; Num. 4:4; Num. 18:1-7). Each new king was also given the **responsibility**** from God to make a fresh new copy of the Scriptures (Deut. 17:18-20). If either of them performed their God-given **responsibility**** concerning the Scriptures, not only would their generation be ensured a **preserved****, inspired, copy of the Scriptures, but the next **generation**** would have it as their guide and starting point as well.

Preservation** in the New Testament was committed to the believers, the church (Col. 4:16; 1 Pt. 2:5). They were instructed to take what they received, copy it, and pass it on for others as well. This was made possible because, upon salvation, we are all granted by God the right of kingship (Gal. 4:7; Rev. 1:6). We are also granted the privileges of priesthood. We are made to be a royal priesthood, able to go directly to the throne and not have an arbitrator (1 Pt. 2:9; Heb. 4:16).

CONCLUSION

If God took so much effort to care for His Word, shouldn’t we, as His children, make an extra effort to take good care of our copy of God’s Word?

ASK: What are some measures you could take to protect God’s Word?

God’s Word was originally **preserved**** in its **original**** languages, but neither of those languages were English. Next time, we will discover how God has allowed His Word to be translated into new languages in order for people all around the world to learn about Him!

**** = indicates a defined word within the lesson under “Important Words”**