



LEADER GUIDE

Unit 3: The Feast

Lesson 1: The Bible Has Meaning

OVERVIEW

UNIT OVERVIEW

Lesson 1: The Bible Has Meaning

DISCIPLINE: Feasting on God's Word

KEY VERSES: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4

Lesson 3: Memorizing Scripture

DISCIPLINE: Memorizing God's Word

KEY VERSES: Hebrews 4:12-16; Psalm 119:9; Jeremiah 15:16

Lesson 2: Biblical Devotions

DISCIPLINE: Biblical Devotions

KEY VERSES: Hebrews 10:22-25; Romans 12:6-8

Lesson 4: The Special Dish

DISCIPLINE: Finding Answers in God's Word

KEY VERSES: Matthew 7:24-29; Philippians 3:8

LESSON 1 OVERVIEW

The Bible has meaning.

We start this series by helping preteens understand something that is basic, but not often discussed: the Bible has meaning. The tendency for many people, instead of applying the truths of the Bible to their lives, is to apply the "truths" of their lives to the Bible. Instead of reading God's Word and trying to receive the intended meaning from the Sacred Scriptures, they try to bring meaning to the Scriptures. This is what Satan did when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness.

We teach the preteens to ask the question, "What is God trying to show ME in this verse?" but that does not supersede the question, "What does God MEAN in this verse?" If we can help preteens to understand how to read the Bible with this in mind – that the words of Scriptures have both a purpose AND a meaning, we can help them to fall in love with God's Word.

LESSON 1 LEADER DEVO

Read: John 6:35

Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*, also authored *Eat This Book*. He challenges us to not just eat God's Word, but devour it. He challenges us to spend the same kind of time devouring God's Word as we do our passion. The purpose of reading God's Word isn't to feed our own souls, though that does happen. The purpose is to see the bigger picture of God at work in our world (and that feeds our souls).

Don't misunderstand. God gave you your passion and he wants you to delight in it. He also wants you to delight in his Word. This isn't something you can will yourself to do. It's something you develop over time, as you mature in your faith.

Stop for one minute. Examine your schedule. Examine your priorities. What's one thing you can do to feed your passion for God's Word? Maybe it's a question you'll ask daily. Maybe it's time you'll set aside. Maybe with bread. Maybe it's something you'll do with a spouse or a friend. Pick one thing and try it before you go to bed tonight.



SCHEDULE

Lesson 1: The Bible Has Meaning



01 WARM-UP

10 min

Preteens will play an Opening Game and get a brief overview of today's lesson topic.

Today's Opening Game: Food Blots



02 M.A.P.

10 min

Preteens will read through a passage of Scripture on their own. They'll consider what stands out to them from the passage and why it stands out to them. They'll also be given time to talk with God about the passage.

Today's Passage: 2 Timothy 3:14-17



03 DISCOVER

20 min

Preteens will learn about spiritual disciplines that will help them draw closer to God. They'll discover the Biblical basis for these disciplines, the purpose and benefit of these disciplines, and the reasons why Christians have practiced these discipline throughout history.

Today's Discovery: Does the Bible have different meanings for different people?



04 QUEST

10 min

Preteens will move into action as they practice different ways that they can grow in their own personal relationship with Jesus.

Today's Quest: Feasting on God's Word



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NOTE: Highlighted words indicate supplies to prepare. These are also listed in the ADMIN GUIDE.

[Slide 01 The Feast]

Hi, everybody. Welcome to [name of ministry]. This month, we are diving in to a series called "The Feast." Before we do anything else, let's get started with a game called Food-blots!

[Slide 02 Food-blots]

[AUDIO 01 Game Music]

Before service, I created these 5 masterpieces using only [whatever food you've used]. (Let preteens look at the five "paintings" that you've placed in front of the room.)

Only one of these was made with intention. Four of the paintings were made randomly. In other words, for four of these paintings, I just dripped on the canvas without really trying to make anything.

Four of these MIGHT look like something, but I didn't have anything in mind when I made them. However, one of these paintings is different. I made one of these paintings with something in mind. I made one of these paintings to actually look like it was something.

For this game, you'll need to figure out (a) which painting I made "on purpose," and (b) what I made that painting to be.

If you think you know which painting was made with intention and what it is, raise your hand. If I call on you and you're correct, you'll win a prize. You'll also get to create your very own food painting.

(Call on preteens until somebody gets the correct answer. If nobody is getting it, guide the preteens toward the correct answer. Have the preteen who guesses the answer correct come to the front to paint a new food painting. Tell him or her that (s)he has 5 minutes to paint either a random picture, or a picture with purpose, and that everybody is going to have a chance to guess whether the picture was random or purposeful. Continue to the next portion of service and teach while this preteen "paints" a masterpiece.)

[Slide 03 The Feast]

Today is a special day, because we're starting a series called "The Feast." According to Oxford Dictionaries, a feast is...

[Slide 04 Feast Definition]





...“A large meal, typically one in celebration of something.”

Who can give me an example of a time when you might have a feast? *(Take responses.)*

Let's look at two verses from the Bible to understand the kind of feast we'll be having this month. The first is Matthew 4:4. Read it to yourself and then I'll ask you a question about it.

[Slide 05 Matthew 4:4]

(Pause for preteens to read the scripture.) According to what Jesus is saying here, we need to “eat” *(do air quotes as you say this)* more than just bread. What else do we need in order to truly LIVE? (THE WORD OF GOD.)

If I don't eat enough physical food, what can happen to me? *(Take answers.)* Right. I can start to feel run down.

Matthew 4:4 is saying that physical food isn't enough. If I don't eat enough of God's word *(hold up a Bible)*, I can start to feel really run down, too. The words in this book are what the Bible calls “Spiritual Food” (1 Corinthians 10:3). Jesus even calls himself living bread (John 6:51).

Check out our second verse: It's Jeremiah 15:16.

[Slide 06 Jeremiah 15:16]

(Pause for preteens to read the verse.) This month, we're going to FEAST on God's word. We're not just going to read the Bible, we are going to BE FILLED with the words God has given us.

Now that we have a big picture idea of what this month's series is going to be about, let's look at the big picture that [name of preteen who has been painting with food] has been creating up here.

What do you think? Was it made with purpose or was it made randomly? *(Take responses, then ask the preteen who created the painting to explain the picture. Thank this preteen as he or she returns to the audience and add the painting to your gallery of paintings.)*

I'll talk more about these paintings in a bit, but first, let's get started with the feast!



**[Slide 07 The Feast]**

We aren't going to just be talking about feasting on God's word; we're actually going to be feasting on God's Word.

If you have your Bible, get it ready to "eat" right now. It's M.A.P. Time.

OK – check out this video with me, and then we're going to take some bites out of the Bible.

[VIDEO 01 MAP Week 1]

(Play VIDEO01 or simply give the M.A.P. instructions as explained in the video.)

[Slide 08 MAP 2 Timothy 3:14-17]**[AUDIO 02 MAP Time]**

(After the video/instructions, hand out MAP Cards to preteens who didn't bring a Bible. Also, give each preteen a pen/pencil and a highlighter.)

Give preteens time to complete M.A.P. as explained in the video. When it looks like most preteens are done, you can have preteens describe what they highlighted and wrote in their Bibles – or on the M.A.P. Cards– either in Small Groups or with the whole group.)



**[Slide 09 2 Timothy 3:16-17]**

On the screen, you see 2 Timothy 3:16-17, which was part of what we read during M.A.P. time today. It might be written a little differently than it is in your Bible. That's because the Bible was first written in Greek and Hebrew, not in English.

Throughout the years, different people have translated the Bible, from Greek and Hebrew, into English. Think about this: do people speak English the same way today that they spoke English 200 years ago? (NO.) Do people speak English the same way in England as they do in Canada? (NO.)

When people translate the Bible into English, they might use different English words at different times, or in different places. That's why your Bible might have different words than my Bible. If your Bible has different words than mine, it was probably translated into English by different people, in a different place, at a different time.

Even though the words are different from one Bible translation to another, what should be the same? (THE MEANING) The meaning of these verses should be the same, even if your Bible uses different words. Let's talk about the meaning and the purpose of God's Word.

According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the Bible is really useful. Look at those verses on the screen and tell me one thing the Bible is useful for. *(Take responses and have individual preteens that you call on take a marker and write their answers on the five "The Bible is useful for..." posters that you have posted around the room. You'll be using these posters more in the other lessons in this series.)*

Wow! The Bible is super useful according to this passage. The Bible gives us directions for living life to the fullest. Speaking of directions, I've been searching for directions for how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

[Slide 10 PBJ]

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says that the Bible is really useful for a lot of things, but it doesn't say that it's useful for making a PB&J sandwich. What I'd like to feast on right about now is a PB&J sandwich.

OPTION 1 (Live Instructions):

I think that maybe one of you can help, though. Who thinks they can give me directions that would be USEFUL for making a PB&J sandwich?

(Call a preteen volunteer forward who thinks he or she can give you good directions for how to make a PB&J sandwich. Point out the bread, peanut butter, jelly, plate, and knife. Blindfold this preteen and have him or her speak the directions. Follow the directions, but purposefully misinterpret the instructions so that the results are comical.)





For instance, if (s)he says, “put the peanut butter on the bread,” pick up the entire jar of peanut butter and place it on the loaf of bread. Continue to do this with each direction that (s)he gives you. The point is to demonstrate what it looks like when we’re given instructions that are useful, but we misinterpret the meaning.)

NOTE: There is a LEADER ONLY video included with this curriculum which demonstrates what this could look like.

OPTION 2 (Video Instructions):

However, I thought I might find a video that would be USEFUL for helping me make a PB&J sandwich. And check out what I found.

[VIDEO 02 PB&J directions]

(While this video plays, make the sandwich as shown in the “PB&J example video LEADER ONLY video.”)

OPTION 1 and 2:

(After you’re done, ask the preteens how you did. They’ll likely say something like “Really bad.” Then say:) What was the problem here? The directions I was given were useful for making a PB&J sandwich, but I just ended up with a mess. Why didn’t I end up making a good PB&J sandwich? (Take responses. Preteens may or may not be able to adequately put this into words, but give them a chance to try. This will engage their thinking before you give today’s main point.)

The directions that [name of preteen] were giving WERE useful for making a PB&J sandwich, but I didn’t take the time to think about what [she/he] MEANT! I made up my own meaning for each thing that (s)he said.

Look at all the posters around the room that you wrote on, and think about how useful the Bible can be.

(Pause for preteens to consider the intended usefulness of the Bible.) The Bible is so very useful for our lives. But we can’t make up our own meaning of what God’s Word, the Bible, means. We have to TAKE THE TIME to figure out what God actually means in the Bible, not just what we think he means.

The Bible is so powerful.

Look at Hebrews 4:12 with me.

[Slide 11 Hebrews 4:12]

(Read the scripture. Then continue:) These words were written by a guy named Paul, who was being inspired by God to write them.





Do you think Paul meant something when he wrote these words or was he just putting random letters on pieces of paper, like some of my paintings up here (*refer to the random food art paintings*)? (PAUL MEANT SOMETHING.) If I'm going to benefit from Paul's words, my job is to figure out what Paul meant.

Imagine you're trying to cut out snowflakes at school for an art project, but you can't find any scissors. "Here, use this," your friend Amelia says, and she hands you a Bible. "It says right in Hebrews 4:12 that the word of God is sharper than any sword that has two edges."

Is that what Paul meant when he wrote those words? (NO.) All you have to do is read the rest of the verse, and take the time to think about what Paul actually meant.

Learning what people mean takes time. It takes thinking. It's the same with understanding the Bible. We can't just make up our own meaning for these words. (*Hold up your Bible.*)

The Bible is not like these random paintings (*point to the randomly created food paintings*). The Bible was made to actually mean something. We shouldn't just twist the words to mean whatever we want. When we read it, we should figure out what it ACTUALLY means. Only then will the Bible be useful for us, like it says in 2 Timothy. Only then will the Bible be powerful for us, like it says in Hebrews 4:12.

When Jesus was about 30 years old, he was led by the Spirit into a desert. He spent 40 days there, without drinking any water or eating any food. During that time, Satan came to Jesus and tempted him. He was trying to get Jesus to sin, and this is crazy: do you know what Satan used to tempt Jesus?

One thing Satan used was this (*hold up your Bible.*) He used the words of God. Satan went up to Jesus three times, and each time he tried to get Jesus to sin.

The second time he went to Jesus, Satan tried to get Jesus to sin by taking words from here (*point to the Bible*) and TWISTING what they actually meant.

Jesus knew what God's words actually meant, so he wasn't fooled by Satan. Satan tried to bring a different meaning to God's words than what they actually meant. Do you think that's a good thing for anybody to do? (NO.) No, and we shouldn't do that either.

This book is SOOO powerful, and SOOO useful, but we must take the time to figure out what the writers actually meant when they wrote it. We shouldn't twist God's words like Satan did.





Maybe you're not sure what these words mean (*hold up the Bible*), but I've got some good news for you:

[Slide 12 The Holy Spirit will help]

The Holy Spirit knows God's word well. Satan tried to fool Jesus into thinking that God's word meant things that it did not, but Jesus wasn't fooled. The Holy Spirit can help us, too. He can help us to know the truth of the Bible. He can help us to know exactly what God's words mean.

The Holy Spirit is God himself, and he is living inside the heart and mind of every Christian.

Here's what we are going to do in just a moment during today's Quest.

We're going to take [5-15] minutes to read the Bible. This will be like having a small feast right here in [ministry name]!

During our Quest Feast, we're going to ask God to help us understand His Word.

God is the one giving us these words (*hold up the Bible*), so let's ask him for help in understanding what these words actually mean. They aren't random words written on pages for us to figure out what we think they mean. They are written on purpose, and they're useful for us when we understand them.

- Before we read, let's ask God for help in understanding His Word.
- While we read, let's stop and ask God for help in understanding His Word.
- After we read, let's ask God for help in understanding His Word.

Let's prepare to feast on the true meaning of God's Word with the help of God's Holy Spirit!



**[Slide 13 Quest FEAST on God's Word]**

When I say, "Begin," I'm going to start a timer for [5-15] minutes. During that time, we're going to "eat" the words of the Bible, starting with the story of Satan tempting Jesus. Open your Bibles to Matthew, Chapter 4. *(You can hand out **Matthew, Chapter 4 pages** to preteens who don't have a Bible.)*

Just like I tell you other weeks during the Quest, these Spiritual Disciplines that we practice during the Quest are things you can do on your own at home. When you do these things, you'll grow your relationship with God.

This week's Spiritual Discipline is FEASTING on God's Word. My challenge to you is to feast on the Bible at home this week every day. Set a timer for however old you are and feast for that many minutes. For example, if you're 12 years old, feast for 12 minutes on God's Word each day.

When I say, "Begin," start by praying silently, asking God to help you find THE MEANING of what you're about to read. Then, as you're reading, stop from time to time and ask God to help you understand THE MEANING of what you're reading. Then, when you're done, ask God to help you understand THE MEANING of what you just read. When you're reading this passage, you'll be reading powerful and useful words. These are God's words.

As you're reading, let's try something. Use **the markers** placed underneath each "The Bible is useful..." poster around the room to write things that you read. For example, if you read something that's useful for correcting mistakes, quietly walk over and write the thing you read on the poster that says "The Bible is useful for correcting our mistakes."

If you read something that's useful for making our lives whole again, write it on the poster that says, "The Bible is useful for making our lives whole again."

When the workshop time begins, don't start walking around the room and writing on posters right away. I'll let you know when you can start writing on the posters. At first, let's all just pray and read our Bibles in our seats.

I'll let you know when you can start writing on posters. I want you to remain silent during this time, whether you're reading, or walking up to a poster, or writing. Let's let God's voice be the only voice that our friends hear during this time.

Many times, when we do something like this in [ministry name], we play some kind of music in the background. Today, we're going to try doing this in silence and see what that's like. Alright. "BEGIN."

(Start your timer. After about 3 minutes, let preteens know they can start writing on posters as long as they stay silent. Also let them know they should keep on reading more of God's Word during this time, in between writing on the posters. Then, at the end, dismiss to Small Group time to discuss what they read.)





ADMIN GUIDE

Unit 3: The Feast

Lesson 1: The Bible Has Meaning

SUPPLIES

Lesson 1: The Bible Has Meaning



01 WARM-UP

10 min

- Squirt containers of Strawberry, chocolate and/or caramel syrup for “painting”
- 5 poster board “canvases.” On 4 of these canvases, use the syrups to create random, nondescript pictures. On 1 of the canvases, use the syrups to intentionally paint a picture of something but don’t make it obvious. You’ll want there to be some confusion about which are the random paintings, and which is an intentional painting.
- 1 additional blank canvas for the preteen painting



02 M.A.P.

10 min

- Highlighters for each preteen
- Pens for each preteen
- **MAP Card** for each preteen (copy on cardstock)

NOTE: Within the leader guide, supplies are highlighted so you can understand how they’ll be used and prepare accordingly.



03 DISCOVER

20 min

- Bible
- 5 Poster boards with “The Bible is useful for...” written at the top. Post these around the room in places that the preteens can access.
- 5-20 markers placed in front of each “The Bible is useful for...” poster board
- PB&J Supplies (peanut butter, jelly, bread, plate, and a knife)
- Watch the “PB&J example” instructional video to see how to perform the illustration
- Blindfold
- Decide which option you’ll use for the PB&J Illustration. If using Option 1, prepare Video02 PB&J Instructions
- Wet wipes in the teaching area, in case the PB&J Illustration gets messy

NOTE: Supplies on this page that are written in a **bold font** can be found in the *Printables* Section.



04 QUEST

10 min

- **Matthew, Chapter 4 Sheets** for each preteen (copy on cardstock)
- Pencil/Pen for each preteen

NOTE: During each week of the series, you could have a table on the stage dressed up as though a feast is about to take place. You can put a tablecloth on the table, and have place settings with cups, plates, etc.



PRINTABLES

Lesson 1: The Bible Has Meaning



MAP Card (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

1. Map the passage	2. Timothy 3:14-17	3. Map the passage
Read the passage and underline the main idea. Write the main idea in the box below.		
M.A.P.		
1. Map the passage	2. Timothy 3:14-17	3. Map the passage
Read the passage and underline the main idea. Write the main idea in the box below.		
M.A.P.		



Matthew, Chapter 4 Sheet

Matthew, Chapter 4 (2017)
Read the passage and underline the main idea. Write the main idea in the box below.
M.A.P.
1. Map the passage
Read the passage and underline the main idea. Write the main idea in the box below.
M.A.P.

1 Highlight what stands out for Me.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

2 How does what I highlighted Affect me?

"But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned and are sure about. You know the people you learned it from. You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus. 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."

M.A.P.

3 Pray about what you highlighted.

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1 Highlight what stands out for Me.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

2 How does what I highlighted Affect me?

"But I want you to continue to follow what you have learned and are sure about. You know the people you learned it from. You have known the Holy Scriptures ever since you were a little child. They are able to teach you how to be saved by believing in Christ Jesus. 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."

M.A.P.

3 Pray about what you highlighted.

THE FEAST > Lesson 1 > The Bible Has Meaning

Matthew, Chapter 4 (NIV)



Jesus Is Tempted in the Desert

¹ The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted him. ² After 40 days and 40 nights of going without eating, Jesus was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him. He said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (*Deuteronomy 8:3*) ⁵ Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city. He had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. It is written,"

'The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won't trip over a stone.'" (*Psalms 91:11,12*)

SPECIAL NOTE
Right here, the devil was twisting God's Word to try to tell Jesus that it meant something that God's Word didn't mean!

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'" (*Deuteronomy 6:16*) ⁸ Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ "If you bow down and worship me," he said, "I will give you all this." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Get away from me, Satan! It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'" (*Deuteronomy 6:13*) ¹¹ Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came and took care of him.

Jesus Begins to Preach

¹² John had been put in prison. When Jesus heard about this, he returned to Galilee. ¹³ Jesus left Nazareth and went to live in the city of Capernaum. It was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ In that way, what the prophet Isaiah had said came true. He had said, ¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Galilee, where Gentiles live! Land along the Mediterranean Sea! Territory east of the Jordan River!" ¹⁶ The people who are now living in darkness have seen a great light. They are now living in a very dark land. But a light has shined on them." (*Isaiah 9:1,2*) ¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach. "Turn away from your sins!" he said. "The kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus Chooses His First Disciples

¹⁸ One day Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. There he saw two brothers, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake, because they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come and follow me," Jesus said. "I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers. They were James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee. As they were preparing their nets, Jesus called out to them. ²² Right away they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.

Jesus Heals Sick People

²³ Jesus went all over Galilee. There he taught in the synagogues. He preached the good news of God's kingdom. He healed every illness and sickness the people had. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria. People brought to him all who were ill with different kinds of sicknesses. Some were suffering great pain. Others were controlled by demons. Some were shaking wildly. Others couldn't move at all. And Jesus healed all of them. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him. People came from Galilee, from the area known as the Ten Cities, and from Jerusalem and Judea. Others came from the area across the Jordan River.