Hey, Let’s Look in the Bible!

A 

simple and effective Bible class activity that has been around for quite some time is one in which individual words from a Bible verse are spread out on a table and children unscramble them. Click here for full instructions for Unscramble the Verse.

Usually I would have the class read the verse in the Bible before unscrambling the verse. But awhile back I decided to try something different. I divided the ten children in the class into 2 mixed-age groups and gave each group a duplicate set of scrambled words. All I told them was that it was a Bible verse. The children quickly set to work trying to figure out how to put the words in order.

I observed both teams using logical methods to figure out this puzzle. They tried to work out sentence structure. They placed question marks and full-stops (periods) at the ends of lines since those would end sentences. Words that started with capitals were the first words in sentences. But, it was a complicated verse and they were truly stumped for the answer.

I could tell both groups were getting a little frustrated. It would have been easy for me to bail them out right away but I actually wanted to let them feel that frustration for a little while. I wanted them to feel what it is like to work really hard but not be able to figure it out on their own before pointing them to God’s Word..

Of course, I wouldn’t have let that frustration go on so long that the children would give up or become discouraged. So, just when I was about to “break” and give them a hint, one of the youngest children popped up with this suggestion, “Hey, let’s look in a Bible for the answer!” Both groups scrambled to find a Bible and look up the passage. The answer was there all along!

How often do we try to figure out life on our own without seeking answers from God’s word? How many times do we feel that frustration but look to other sources for answers? Let’s help guide children towards God and what he has to say so that it will become a natural part of their life.

> For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6, NIV

Note: In case you are wondering, the memory verse scrambled in the photo above is Hebrews 13:6. How about looking in your Bible for the answer? The memory verse was used with the Bible story Gideon and the Midianites

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