



Looking at the Bible Activity Ideas



This is a selection of interactive ideas that can be used on the theme of 'the Bible'.

Tasting activity Starter activity suitable for a small club

Aim: Multi-sensory activity leading to a short serious discussion about the Bible being like bread (& perhaps other food) and honey and what that means

Requires: Different foods as listed below or similar

Use different types of bread or other food and get them to guess what they are.

Could include

- maltezers as they have a honeycomb centre (beware of choking hazard & lactose intolerance)
- honey yoghurt – could dip bread sticks into latter and guess flavour
- honey & lemon throat sweets
- honey cake
- bread & honey sandwiches

Talk about food & why we need it:

- Different types of food – sweet, savoury, chewy, healthy but not so tasty etc
- Need it for: carbo-hydrates for energy; vitamins & minerals for good health; proteins for growth.

Bible is like bread and honey

Honey contains vitamins & minerals; gives energy; is a mild antiseptic & cleanser; moisturizes

The Dinner Party

Aim: Multi-sensory activity that focuses on our need to read the Bible as much as we need to eat healthy food

Requires: fruit, junk food or pictures of food; Christian reading material; unhelpful books & magazines

We used this idea at an overnight interactive prayer event based on the Lord's Prayer. If it isn't possible to use food, it could be presented in a simpler way using pictures, food wrappers or even just words.

As we were doing this as part of a big event, we had a large table laid out with posh plates as though we were having a dinner party. We sat around the table and played a game first (where we introduced ourselves as some imaginary character). We then asked them to select some food from 2 other tables.

One table was laid with healthy food such as fruit. Another table was laid with junk food such as crisps etc. Invite the young people to choose something to eat. Discuss which is more appealing and which is better for you. Do the same with the reading material, which can also be laid out somewhere. (When we did this, it was 4.00am and they had been snacking on pizza so everyone wanted the fruit and we had to adapt the talk a little but that wasn't a problem – you always have to be adaptable in youth work!)

Idea: Ian Mullens

Pictionary game of words to describe the Bible

Aim: To look at words that help to describe the Bible

Requires: paper, pencils, list of words

Pictionary is played in teams. One person from each team is secretly given a word that they have to communicate to the rest of the team by drawing a picture. They are not allowed to speak or write words. Each team may need to be given different words in order to prevent cheating.

Give words such as: **honey; sword; light; fire; hammer; map; road sign; explosive** etc.

At the end of the game ask them what these words have in common. They are all used to describe the Bible, in particular by David in Psalms 19 and 119

Follow up question: In what way can a holy book such as the Bible be like any of these things?

If you don't have time to play Pictionary you could use picture or objects of these items as a focus for discussion.

Take Your Pick: Open the gift or take the money?

Aim: To encourage some serious thinking about how much the Bible is worth in real terms

Bible references: Proverbs 8:10-11; Matthew 13:44-46

Requires: visual aids are optional depending on how you want to present the illustration

In a TV game show called 'Take Your Pick', contestants had to choose between being given a large sum of money they had won by answering questions or being given a mystery prize locked up in a box that was often worth more than the money but was sometimes worth less.

Imagine that you have to make a one-off life choice between being given something like the winning lottery ticket worth several million pounds/Euros or being given a book. This book, should you choose to search it, could give you all the answers to life's mysteries; who you are; why you are here; how to get things right; how to be successful etc. What would you choose?

Bible is like:

- **A compass:** In the book 'Northern Lights' by Philip Pullman (filmed as the Golden Compass), Lyra is given an Alethiometer. This is a sort of compass that tells you the truth. This extract is from page 74:

He crossed to the desk and took from a drawer a small package wrapped in black velvet. When he unfolded the cloth, Lyra saw something like a large watch or a small clock: a thick disc of brass and crystal. It might have been a compass or something of the sort.

"What is it?" she said.

"It's an Alethiometer. It's one of only six that were ever made.

"But what does it do?"

"It tells you the truth. As for how to read it, you'll have to learn by yourself. Now go – it's getting lighter – hurry back to your room before anyone sees you."

He folded the velvet over the instrument and thrust it into her hands. It was surprisingly heavy.

- In 'Pirates of the Caribbean' Captain Jack Sparrow has a compass which points to the thing you most want to find.

- Tom Riddle's Diary page 179 – Harry starts to write in the diary and the diary writes back to him. Are there any similarities or differences between this fictional book and the Bible?

Why do we sometimes write things down? What sort of things do we write down?

Aim: To see why God started to ask people to write his messages down.

Requires: visual aids – see below

Examples: shopping list; thank you note; apology; instructions; letter; legal contract; songs; guidance; farewell message; obituary; text message; diary; permit; passport etc

We can find all of these sorts of things in the Bible. But it isn't just a random assortment of stuff like you might find tucked away in the loft that's just accumulated over the years.

Bible or Potter game

This is particularly apt for discussing whether the Bible is true.

Identify which quotes are from the Bible and which are from a Harry Potter book.

Requires: PowerPoint or an activity sheet with the quotes. See 'Is the Bible True?' resources on the Beliefs page.

In date or out of date? Bible Proverbs

Similar idea to above but give a range of proverbs from the Bible and for each one, ask if they think that at 3,000 years old, it has passed its 'best by' date or is still good today.

There is a PowerPoint version of this.

Headline news

Aim: to show the link between current events and Bible events and that the Bible is therefore still relevant today.

If you walked into a newsagent or watched the news on TV, what sort of headlines/issues would you expect to see and hear about? Possibly:

war; refugees; murder; child abuse; scandals; politics; royalty; government; injustice; poverty; finance; education; sport; racial discrimination; women's' rights; fair trade; special achievements; spy stories.

Would you expect to find stories about the same issues in a book as old as the Bible?

For full details and matching PowerPoint see 'Is the Bible Relevant Today?' on the Beliefs page

If there is a story that the group know well, you could reverse this and ask them for ideas.

Writers: Brenda Lord with Ian Mullens, 2009; updated 2018

Image via Microsoft clip art