

Revise the Draft



Description:

Audio presentation and hands-on demonstrations

Aims:

- Understand that Christians must handle God's Word carefully.
- Recognize the challenge of communicating ideas in another language.
- Pray that God will enable Bible translation teams to recognize necessary changes.

Audience:

Grades 3-6

Space Needed:

Classroom

Country/Area:

Mexico

Minimum Time Requirements:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| • Audio clip with discussion | 2-3 minutes |
| • Scripture discussion | 2 minutes |
| • Activity page | 5 minutes |
| • Scribe activity | 9 minutes |
| • Prayer | 1 minute |

Scripture to Study:

2 Timothy 2:15

Materials:

- My Volcano Adventure Resource CD available at: http://www.wycliffe.ca/store/book_kids.html
- Computer and speakers
- Several of the following objects for carrying:
 - A bag
 - A bowl or basket
 - A piece of paper
 - A stuffed animal with a tail
 - Tongs
 - A toy bird
 - A ball
 - A platter
- Paper and pencil for each student
- A Bible for each student
- A copy of activity page 11 for each student
- A copy of each of the "Carrying Posters" from the Resource CD (optional)
- A copy of the scribe's instructions from page 5 (optional)

Pre-class Preparations:

- You may want to pre-select which words for “carry” you will use. Then bring only the objects needed to act out those words.
- Familiarize yourself with the different ways of saying “carry” listed on the worksheet.
- Print the “To Carry Posters” from the Resource CD and display them in the classroom (optional).
- Print copies of the activity page.
- Print a copy of the scribe’s instructions and display them in the classroom (optional).
- Distribute Bibles and pencils.

Class Time:

AUDIO CLIP

Ask the children,

How would you work if God asked you to write His Word down for others to read? Would you do it as quickly as possible? Would you work slowly and carefully?

Allow children to respond. Then continue,

Listen to this audio clip. It is about a person who had the job of copying God’s Word for others to read. Long, long ago, people called someone who copied God’s Word a “scribe”.

Play “Kid’s Timeline Audio: Scribes” from the Resource CD, lesson 4.

After listening to the clip, ask,

How did the scribe handle God’s Word?

Allow children to respond.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Ask children the following questions, and allow them to respond.

- Why do you think scribes copied God’s Word so carefully?

Materials:

- Resource CD
- Computer and speakers

Materials:

- Bible

- What if God asked you to translate the Bible (to write it in a different language) would you need to work carefully? Why?

Explain,

Bible translators not only *copy* God’s Word like the scribes did, they write it in a different language. They have to carefully choose just the right words so that people will understand what the Bible really says.

Have you ever looked over an assignment and corrected it before giving it to your teacher? That means you needed to revise it to make it better. Bible translators do the same thing. They go back over their work to make sure that they communicated clear and accurate meanings. Translators must work very carefully to keep the true meaning when translating the Word of God.

Read 2 Timothy 2:15. Ask,

How does the Bible say we need to handle its words?

ACTIVITY PAGE

Distribute activity page 11. Read the first paragraph and the first sentence of the second paragraph.

After reading, ask for volunteers. Tell the first volunteer,

I am going to say a Tzeltal word from the activity page.

(If you have chosen to display the posters, students may also refer to them.) You need to carry an object the way that word says to carry it. You may pick an item from the table to carry.

Use one of the words from the activity page or posters for each volunteer. Example: If you say, “no!” the volunteer should carry the ball in the palm of his/her open hand.

SCRIBE ACTIVITY

Distribute paper. Tell the children,

Now that you know just how carefully Bible translation teams need to work, you have a chance to copy a verse in the same careful way that a scribe would have done it. Open your Bibles to 2 Timothy 2:15.

Materials:

- Several of the following objects:
 - A bag
 - A bowl or basket
 - A piece of paper
 - A stuffed animal with a tail
 - Tongs
 - A toy bird
 - A ball
 - A platter
- A copy of each of the “Carrying Posters” from the Resource CD (optional)
- Copies of activity page 11 for each student

Pause to allow children to find the verse in their Bibles.

You may need to assist some of them. Continue,

Write 2 Timothy 2:15, using the rules that scribes followed when copying God's Word. You can see them here on this poster.

Read the scribe's instructions with the children:

- Say, "I am now copying the holy Word of God."
- Repeat each word aloud twice before writing it.
- Stand and say, "I am now writing the holy name of God," before writing God's name.
- When finished, count the number of words in the copy and in the original to make sure that they are the same. Then count the letters to make sure they match. (Hint: It may be easier if you count the letters from one punctuation mark to the next one and compare those numbers instead of counting all of the letters at one time.)

After most of the children have finished this activity, ask,

Do you think Bible translators work this way?

Allow several children to respond and then say,

Bible translators don't write new translations like scribes wrote their copies because they write the Bible in different languages. Since different languages have different ways of saying the same thing, translators cannot count letters or words. However, translators work very hard to make sure that what they write *means* the same thing as what the Bible says. Specialists, and people who know the language well, check their work. They also ask God to give them wisdom to translate His Word correctly.

PRAYER

Take time to thank God for His Word. Ask Him to enable translation teams to make their translations clear and accurate.

Materials:

- Paper and pencil for each student
- A copy of the scribe's instructions (optional)
- Bibles

BE A SCRIBE

- ◆ Say, “I am now copying the holy Word of God.”
- ◆ Repeat each word aloud twice before writing it.
- ◆ Stand and say, “I am now writing the holy name of God,” before writing God’s name.
- ◆ When finished, count the number of words in the copy and in the original to make sure that they are the same. Then count the letters to make sure they match.

Revise the Draft

After each Bible passage is translated, different people test it. Sometimes the meaning is not clear. Sometimes the words do not sound natural. So Bible translators make many, many changes. The translation team wants people to know Jesus personally and to grow as Christians.

People in every culture use words to describe ideas that are important to them. Pretend you are working in the Tzeltal language of Mexico. You want to translate Luke 14:27. Read the verse. Which word for "bear" or "carry" would you choose? Circle the word.



Arop-Sissano
population:
2,600
location:
Papua, New Guinea
Old & New Testament
in progress

