Question 42

How is the Word of God

To be read and heard?

Answer

With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith and practice it in our lives.

**Big Idea:**

The Word of God should be read and hear prayerfully and with reverence and humility.

 **Virtue: Hope**

**Aim**

To help the children understand how to approach the Bible in a way that pleases God.

**Bible passage**

1 Timothy 3:10-17

**Memory Verse**

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

**Teaching Outline**

Remind the children that God speaks. God has caused his words to be written down by human writers so that people can know everything necessary for life and salvation. Try to encourage the children to grasp the magnitude of the truth that God revealed himself in his Word. He is not an unknown deity, nor is he some thoroughly mysterious being. God delights in making himself known, and he longs to be known.

Explain to the children that the bible is the most important book ever written because it is God’s primary way of communicating with humanity. God still speaks through his Word to his world today. Ask the children to consider whether they think they should listen to the Bible in the same wasy as every other book. Ask the children if they think that any preparation is needed before reading. The Bible.

We need to think carefully about how we read and hear the Word of God.

Explain that Paul’s letter to Timothy will help the group think about how to approach God’s Word

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17. Provide Bibles for the children to read along.

Explain to the children that as they prepare to read the Bible, they must realize that they are about to hear from the living God and they need to be ready to listen to the Word.

Explain to the children that in this section of 2 Timothy, Paul is encouraging Timothy to be different from the world, to stand for what he believes in the face of doubters and critics. Paul is encouraging Timothy to have confidence in the truth he has come to believe, which he observed in Paul’s life and encountered in God’s Word. Paul tells Timothy that all scripture is God-breathed, fully inspired by God. He identifies God as the origin of Scripture. But he also describes the purpose of Scripture: it is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” Tell the children that the Bible is God’s means of bringing Christians to maturity.

Remind the children that when someone becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes to live in him or her. When a Christian reads the Bible, they Holy Spirit applies it to his or her life. So, every time Christians read the Bible, they are hearing God’s Word. We must determine to listen well and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our life. Ask the children to give some examples of what they think “teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness” means. Ask them where they will encounter God’s Word in their lives each week? Ask them how and why they should prepare to listen to God’s Word?

These are some of the attitudes we adopt as we come to God’s Word:

Prayerful

* Thanking God that he speaks
* Rejoicing that he has given his Holy Spirit to apply the Word.
* Asking that God would teach, reprove, correct and train us

Reverent

* Remembering that it is God who speaks through Scripture

Humble

* Expecting God to work and sanctify
* Thanking God that he wants to change and mature his people

Help the children to understand that we should be eager to meet God in his Word, and in order to do that, we must approach reading the Bible respectfully. We should prepare to hear God’s Word. We should pray before we hear God’s Word, and we should seek to listen carefully to what God is saying to us by his Spirit

God longs to see his people transformed as they seek to glorify him. When we have listened well to God’s Word, we will respond in how we live.

**Questions do discuss with your children.**

**What should I do when I don’t understand the Bible?**

* First, we should pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us understanding. Then, we can ask other Christians, including our pastor or our parents, what a Bible passage means. There are also many books called commentaries that have been written to help us understand the Bible.

**Can I admit that I find the Bible boring?**

* Many people assume that the Bible is boring, but that’s usually because they don’t know it well. If someone watches baseball or a soccer game for the first time, they may find it boring because they don’t know what’s going on. But if they continue to watch and learn the rules, they will start to enjoy the game more and more. They’re interest will grow as they’re knowledge grows. If we find the Bible boring, we should keep reading and trust that as we start to understand It better, we will learn to love and enjoy it.

**How will you approach and read God’s Word differently after this lesson?**

**Prayer: Encourage the children to give thanks to God for his Word and to pray that God would help them hear his Word with great attentiveness.**