

Lesson 3

Digging up the Truth

Objective

Students will learn that we can prove the Bible is from God by looking at Archeological Evidence.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Archeological - Grade 5-6 Student Booklet - for each Gr. 5-6 student to take home or to read during the class time.
- Archeological - Visual Aids for Lesson - one for teacher to show
- Get a Clue Sheet - print one for teacher and cut each question before class
- Trivia Clue Sheet - print one for teacher to share with students
- Bag - to put Get a Clue questions in
- Coin - to flip to see which team starts first.
- Blank Paper for two teams to write answers down
- Paper and Marker. OR Blackboard and Chalk. OR Easel and Marker.
- Bible
- Pens/Pencils/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Scissors

Optional Supplies

Print From the Site:

- Archeological Word Search Solution - one for teacher
- Archeological Word Search - one per student
- Snack: Vanilla Pudding Cups (one per student)
- Finely Crushed Graham Crackers (to be sprinkled on top to make it look like they are digging up sand)
 - Spoons (one per student)

Teacher Tips

- ★ See Lesson 1

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance.

Say to students: **Last week we looked at scientific foreknowledge and today's lesson will be proving the Bible through archaeological evidence. This will help you be able to know for sure that the Bible truly is from God and will help you share that knowledge with others who might not know if the Bible is from God.**

2) Class Time - Archaeological Evidence

30 minutes

Hand out Grade 5-6 Booklets for older students they can read along and follow. Tell them some parts we won't be doing, they can read on their own at home. Also have the visual aid sheet ready to show all students.

Say: **Today we are going to study archeological evidence. Does anyone know what an archeologist does?** Dig in the ground to discover things from the past. **We will look at the different things archeologists have discovered to prove the Bible is true and accurate in all the people and places it talks about.**

The role of archaeology is to dig, identify, and determine the ancient records of the past. Some archeological evidence that is discovered relates to the Bible.

It may come as a surprise to find out that the Bible is the most historically accurate book in the world. There has never been a single valid mistake found in it. To those in the field of archaeology, the Bible's accuracy is no surprise. In fact, over the centuries, thousands of discoveries support biblical stories and statements.

King David

What are some things you remember from the Bible, if any, about king David? (Let students answer)

King David is mentioned over 1048 times in the Bible

His life is the major subject of over 62 chapters.

He wrote 73 of the Psalms

He slew the giant Goliath with a single smooth stone.

*Show King David visual aid, have one of the students hold it up for everyone to see.

Since there was no physical evidence of David, other than the stories in the Bible, some people doubted David was real, even up until 1987. In 1993 in a city called Tel Dan, archeologists found a stone that said "the King of Israel from the house of

David". (Shown above in white letters). This was the first physical proof that there was a kingdom of David from Israel. King David existed historically, just as the Bible stated. Archeological evidence helped prove the Bible is correct.

Hezekiah's Tunnel

The Bible mentions that King Hezekiah built a tunnel to bring water to the city. Let's turn to our Bibles and read. (Help students as needed).

2 Kings 20:20

As for the other events of Hezekiah's reign, all his achievements and how he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?

*Show Hezekiah's Tunnel visual aid, have one of the students hold it up for everyone to see.

Hezekiah built the tunnel and brought the water that was outside the city underground to the inside of the city. This was wise. It made sure that the city always had a supply of water, even if enemies tried to attack.

Archeologists discovered this tunnel under Jerusalem. In fact, if you go there, you can tour the tunnel yourself. On the end of the tunnel, before it was vandalized, it told of the construction. They started from two ends and worked toward the middle to connect the tunnel. This was very difficult to do. The tunnel is another piece of evidence that proves what the Bible had written was correct.

*Show Pilates visual aid, have one of the students hold it up for everyone to see.

The Pilate Inscription

Pontius Pilate was a Roman official who governed the area of Judea at the time of Christ's death. Pilate was the one who had the authority to put Christ to death—even though Pilate knew he was innocent.

Although the Bible names Pilate, his name could not be found in archaeological evidence. For hundreds of years, no evidence could be found to prove a man named Pilate had anything to do with either Christ or Judea. Because of this, many made fun of the Bible and claimed that the Bible writers made Pilate up. After all, if Pilate was a leader, wouldn't there be evidence to prove it?

In 1961, an Italian archaeological team working at Caesarea found a stone tablet that measured 32 inches high, by 27 inches wide, by 8 inches thick. On the stone, pictured

above, it said “Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea” – almost the exact same title as the one given to him in Luke 3:1. Another proof that the Bible is really the word of God.

The famous archaeologist Nelson Glueck wrote: “...no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.”

Let's look at one more example of archeological evidence.

*Show Walls of Jericho visual aid, have one of the students hold it up for everyone to see.

The Walls of Jericho

The Bible says that when the people of Israel went to fight Jericho, in Joshua 6:20, that the walls fell flat and the people went straight up and took the city. In 1930-1936, the archaeologist Garstang, found this to be true. This was amazing because normally a city's walls were pushed in during a fight, not the other way around. The Bible claims the walls of Jericho fell outward “down flat” Joshua 6:20. John Garstang's archaeological digs between 1930-1936 found bricks from the wall lying outward from the city. Kathleen Kenyon's digs in the 1950's found the same thing. The fallen bricks formed a ramp for the attacking army to use to climb up into the city. They also found remains of houses built against the inside of the wall. (Rahab's house Joshua 2:15 is mentioned as being part of the wall.)

Archaeologists found a layer of ash and burned debris 1 meter thick, keeping with Joshua 6:24 that said, “they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasure of the Lord's house.” (Joshua 6:24).

Garstang and Kenyon found large clay jars filled with harvested grain. (Joshua 3:15 says the conquest of Jericho happened during the harvest season, not before the harvest as was usual to do at that time when fighting a city. Grain was valuable and would normally have been taken by the victorious army. Joshua 6:17-18 says the Israelites did not plunder the city.

The Bible also records that the battle took place after all the food from the fields had been brought in. This was not normal because there would be no food in the fields for the invading Israelites to eat. Yet, the archaeologists found many jars at Jericho filled with grain. This proves they truly did fight after the harvest was finished. Once again, more evidence showing the Bible is true. Walls of Jericho falling flat out; Rahab's house built against the wall; Jericho being attacked after harvest; Jericho being burnt and not plundered by Israel. All are examples of Biblical accuracy.

Any questions about the discoveries that prove the Bible is accurate? (Let students answer.)

3) Get a Clue Game

10 minutes

Prep

Before class, print the questions page. Cut out and fold each question so the students can choose their questions by pulling them out of a bag.

Activity

We are going to play a game of trivia!

- Divide the class into two teams, making sure that the age groups are balanced on both sides. Give the name “heads” to one team and “tails” to the other team.
- Have each team choose a spokesperson to shout out the answer for their team. If they are having trouble choosing, then choose the oldest person on their team.

There are a total of 10 questions from our lesson in the bag. Each team will take turns pulling a question and will be given a minute to discuss as a team before giving an answer. The spokesperson on the team will be asked to give the answer. If the answer is correct your team gets a point, but if it is incorrect the other team will have an opportunity to answer for the point. Be sure you all decide as a team what the answer will be.

Flip a coin to see which team goes first, heads or tails. Have a student from that team pick a question out of the bag without looking. Give the team a minute or so to discuss the question.. Once they have their answer, have the spokesperson from their team say the answer out loud. If the team is correct then they get a point. If they get it wrong then it passes to the other team for them to have an opportunity to answer the question. If the other team answers correctly then they get the point. If neither team gets the answer right then no one gets a point.

Keep score on a piece of paper or easel/blackboard that all the students can see.

4) Trivia Game Part 2

10 minutes

We are going to play the “Get A Clue” game again, but this time a little differently. We will divide up into 2 teams again, but this time both teams will write their answer on a sheet of paper at the same time with different questions to answer.

- Have the students go back to the team they were on the 1st time, team heads and team tails.
- Both teams will have the same spokesperson from the 1st game. If that student no longer wants to be the spokesperson then have the oldest or next oldest student be one.

- Hand each team 10 blank pieces of paper to write their answers down on.

There are a total of 10 questions from our lesson. I will be reading off the question and then you will be given a minute to discuss the answer as a team. Both spokespersons will write their team's answer on a piece of paper. Be sure to whisper so the other team does not hear you. When I say ready, both teams will hold up their answer to see who was correct.

If the answer is correct your team gets a point, but if it is incorrect then you get 0 points. Be sure you all decide as a team what the answer will be.

Choose a question to read and continue playing until all 10 questions have been answered. Give the students a minute to discuss and make sure both teams are ready to give their answer. Repeat the question a few times as necessary, while the teams are discussing.

Keep score on a piece of paper that both teams can see.

We've seen many, many examples of scientific foreknowledge and archeological evidence and there is so much more you could study as well. For archeological evidence we saw proof that:

There was a king David of Israel, that Hezekiah was a king, Hezekiah's tunnel, the existence of Pontus Pilate, and the Walls of Jericho.

No other books have compared to the Bible. The Bible had 40 men who wrote different parts to make the best-selling, perfectly unified book ever made. There is no way that people could have made a book so perfect. Every text book needs to be changed as new information becomes known, but the Bible has never needed to be changed.

The only reasonable conclusion is that the Bible is from God. The Bible says, "we can know the truth." We can believe, trust and know for fact that the Bible is real, true, and is the perfect word of God.

Question:

What was your favorite fact that we studied today? Why?

Any questions?

Next time we will begin to look at Biblical prophecy. These are things said by people long ago that came true exactly as they said.

5) Optional Activity Time - Student Booklet Activity Sheet

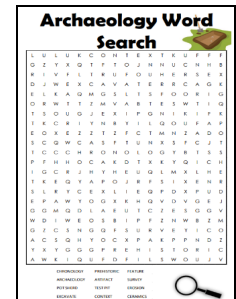
10 minutes

Hand out the Word Search Hand out with pencils or colored pencils to the class. Teacher will have the solution page to refer to.

Go through each of the words at the bottom helping the students understand what each of the words means.

Have the students complete the word search. Remind them that the words could be facing different directions so as to be sure to look vertically, horizontally and diagonally. Once they find the word, circle it and move onto the next word.

If students seem to be having trouble, have them work as a team with another student or with you. You can use the solution page to help.



6) Optional Activity - Snack (Sand Pudding)

5 minutes

Prep

Before class take some graham crackers or other similar "sand" colored sweet crackers and crush them until they are similar in appearance to sand. Store in a sealed plastic bag. Bring enough vanilla pudding cups and spoons for each student to get one.

Snack Time

Hand out a pudding to each student after opening it and pouring "sand" (crackers) to cover the top. Give them a spoon. Ensuring you check for allergies. Say, **this snack is to remind us that the Bible is true in all of the evidence about people and places it mentions. Things archeologists have dug up. Today I want you to enjoy and dig into your sand pudding remembering all the fun facts we learned. The Bible is full of facts that are proven by scientists including archeologists. What was your favorite fact you learned today? Let's go around the room and share.**

This is more evidence that the Bible is scientifically accurate, which we would expect if it came from God.

Let's enjoy our sand pudding to remind us that the Bible is scientifically accurate and is always right. Dig in!

7) Optional Activity - Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For the next few weeks, have the students go to **Psalm 119:160** in their Bibles and read the verse aloud as a class 2 times.

Psalm 119:160 – When speaking about God

The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: “The sum of your word...” a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Put hands together as if holding a ball “THE SUM”, point to their mouths when they say “OF YOUR WORD”, etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

This means that everything God says in the Bible is true.

8) Closing Prayer

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Say closing prayer remembering to thank God for His Son and giving us the complete Word of God.