

## Objective:

The students will be able to:

- Express that the Bible is the Word of God and that it is our guidebook to help us live united with Him now and forever.
- Explain how the Bible brings us the joyful message that Jesus has won salvation and eternal life for us.
- Determine in which Testament specific bible stories are located.
- Identify how Jesus has won eternal salvation for us by listening to and studying a bible verse and the story of Adam and Eve.
- Decide what actions will keep them close to Christ through the Bible's message of eternal joy.

## Time:

Up to two 40 minute lessons

## Materials:

- Orthodox Study Bible
- Chalkboard, chart paper, or white board
- Bible story pictures
- Masking tape
- "Joy of Christ" game cards
- dice
- white construction paper with outline of a person
- glue
- round-edged scissors
- crayons
- Bible line drawing
- Christ line drawing
- Resurrection Icon (teaching pic F10)
- The Beginner's Bible, as told by Karyn Henley, illustrated by Dennas Davis, copyright 1989, published by Gold'n'Honey Books: "The Special Helper" and "A Sad Day", pgs. 16-27 (or similar Children's story of Adam and Eve)

## The Lesson Plan:

### Opening

Gather the students around the icon corner for the opening prayer:

*O Lord Jesus Christ, open our hearts so we may hear thy word. Help us to understand thy teachings and do thy Holy will. Thou givest light to those who are in darkness and from thee comes every good deed and gift. Amen.* Say the theme verse: ***The Bible fills us with eternal joy.*** Have the students recite the theme verse with you.

### Introduction

Pair off the students in your classroom. Ask the students what they know about the Bible. Give them a minute to share their answers with their partners. Call on the students to share their answers with the entire class. Correct any misconceptions that might have.

### Content

- 1) Tell the students that in the Bible, there are two testaments: the Old Testament and the New Testament. In each of these testaments, there are books written by men, who were guided by the

Holy Spirit as they wrote. In the New Testament they wrote about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whom we also call the Word. That's why the Bible contains the Word of God.

- 2) On a piece of chart paper, make a t-chart with the headings: "Old Testament" and "New Testament". Tell the students that the Old Testament was written before Jesus was born and appears first in the Bible. The New Testament tells of Jesus' birth, his life, his death and everything after that. Tell the students that there are pictures of Bible stories hidden throughout the room. Give the students time to go on a Bible story hunt to find all the pictures. Once the pictures have all been found, have the students return to their seats. One at a time, have the students come forward and tell the class about the picture they found. Decide if the picture is a story from the Old or New Testament and then have the student tape the picture on the correct side of the t-chart.
- 3) Tell the students that within these books there are many stories and lessons for us, but one most important message. Tell them that you are going to read a few verses from the Bible aloud to them. Explain that these verses come from a book that was written by the apostle John (who followed Jesus) and is located in the New Testament. Read 1 John 5:11-12 (page 1703 in the Orthodox Study Bible). Discuss their meaning (*that Jesus has won salvation and eternal life for us! Eternal life means we will live forever with Christ in the heavenly kingdom. Salvation means that Jesus saves us from death, which would be separation from God. When we think about living forever because of Jesus' victory over death, we are joyful.*) Continue to read 1 John 5:13. Discuss. (The words in the Bible bring us this joyful message and proclaim it not just to us now, but to everyone who lived, and will live also, to the end of the world.)
- 4) Read "The Special Helper" and "A Sad Day" from the Beginner's Bible (pgs. 16 - 27). Discuss how Adam and Eve turned away from God and did not see that they had sinned and disobeyed God. Why did God create mankind? (*To live united with God and one another – that is Paradise – a state of being in communion with God*). God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden (Paradise). But God loves each of His children and offered all of us the chance to be with Him again. God sent His Son, Jesus into this world. Jesus suffered for us and overcame death (separation from God) through the Glorious Resurrection (Jesus died but he rose again from the dead - show the Resurrection icon). Through Repentance (when we ask God to forgive our sins and turn to God), any of God's children can follow Him and accept the salvation that Jesus won for us!

### Activity

- 1) Clear a space in the classroom or find a larger space to play "The Joy of Christ".
- 2) At the front of the space, place the Orthodox Study Bible. Have all the students stand in a line across the back of the space.
- 3) Taking turns, allow the students to draw a "Joy of Christ" card. Read the card aloud. If the card leads us closer to God through the Bible's message of eternal joy, then the students will roll the dice and take that many normal steps forward (according to the number rolled). If the card separates us from the Bible's message of eternal joy, then the student will take one normal step back. When the students reach the Bible at the front of the space, they have been filled with the Bible's message of eternal joy!
- 4) Hand out the white construction paper copy of the person outline, scissors, glue, crayons, pencils, the Bible line drawing and Christ line drawing. Have them color and cut out the pictures of the Bible and Christ. Have the students glue each of these pictures onto the body of the person. Have the students point to the title at the top of the page as you read it aloud: The Bible Fills us With Eternal Joy!

### Closing

Ask the students to share with their partner what they learned about the Bible. Remind the students that by reading the Bible, we can continue to learn about Christ and his joyful message, allowing Him, the one who has given us eternal life, to guide our lives through His stories and teachings! Tell the students that throughout the year, they will learn stories from other books of the Bible and will be learning how those

stories give us eternal joy. Have the students' recite the CF theme with you: "The Bible fills us with eternal joy!" Close with "The Lord's Prayer" in the icon corner.