

Bongo Loves the Bible CD ~ Bible Background Game

There are seven Bible Stands with study panels in the game landscape which students should read. Some of the panels are two-pagers. At the end of the Jungle path, there are 10 questions about the Bible Stand content that must be answered correctly in order to win. Answering correct the first time improves your score, as does avoiding the Bad Boy Plants and collecting scripture scrolls! Remember to use Ctrl key to jump away if needed, and aim and fling bananas with your mouse key. The following teaching resource shows you what is found on each of the stands.

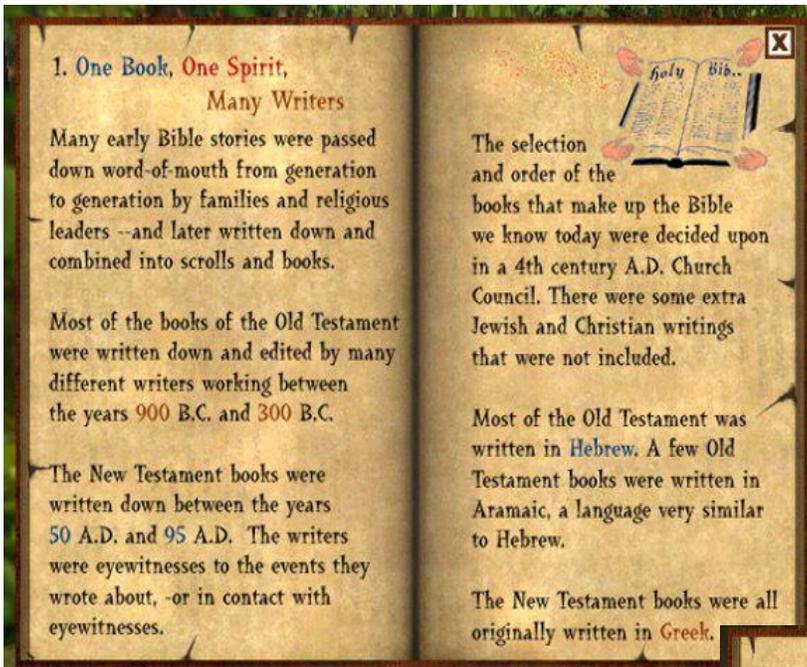
**The last page of this document lists all the questions posed on the panels. You can make copies of the last page to use as a student handout.

Printed from www.sundaysoftware.com/bongo

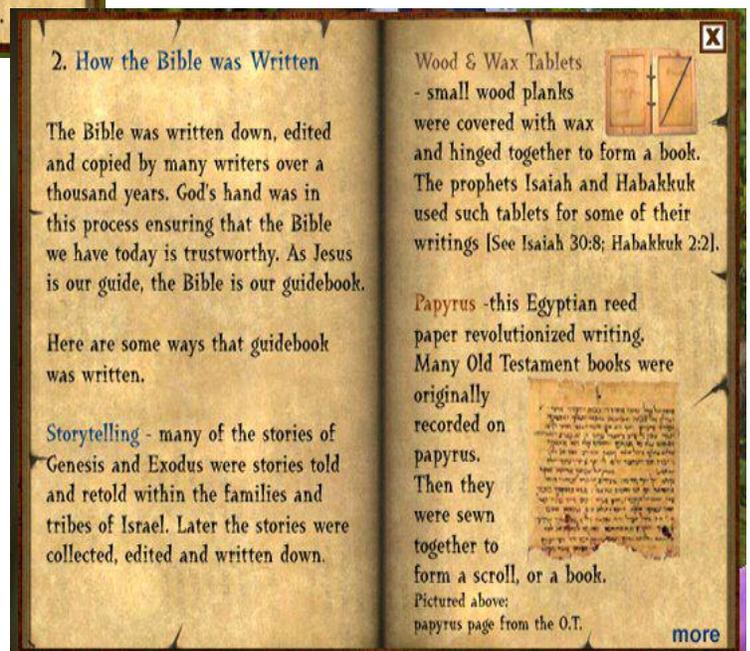
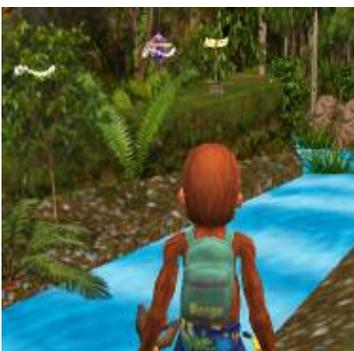
Need maps and game guides to Bongo's other games? Go to www.sundaysoftware.com/bongo



Bongo's Bible Background Game
Location of Scripture Stands and Q's



The second scripture stand can be a bit tricky to find. Look for it along the narrow path by the river.



2. How the Bible was Written

panel 2

Parchment - thin sheets of dried animal skin were the preferred paper of the Roman empire. Many of Paul's letters to Christian churches were written and copied onto parchment.



Metal Scrolls - a few books and worship liturgies have been found engraved on copper scrolls. One from the Temple in Jerusalem was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls.



back

Paper - paper is not very durable and so was not often used for Bibles. That changed with the invention of the printing press.

Scribes and Monks
Before the invention of the printing press, the Bible had to be



copied by hand. Many religious scribes and monks over the past 3000 years have devoted their entire lives to making copies.

What are some other ways the Bible is transmitted forward in your day?

What can you do to make sure the Bible is passed to the next generation?

3. A Brief History of the Bible in English

900 B.C. to 95 A.D.

The Bible is written and edited.

4th Century A.D. to 14th Century A.D.

The Christian Bible was generally available in only two official languages: Greek and Latin (Roman).

1380 -- John Wycliffe translates the Bible into English. Up until this time only Latin-reading Church leaders and priests could read the Bible.

1428 - Upset with Wycliffe's translation, the official Church has Wycliffe's body **deg up and burned** after he had died.



1438 - The invention of Gutenberg's movable-type printing press allows the Bible to be **mass-produced** in a variety of languages.

1530's - The Church of England breaks away from Roman Church control. The use of the English Bible soars.

1536 -- William Tyndale is **burned** at the stake for creating an English language Bible.



1611 - King James the 1st of England authorizes a new, more careful translation of the Bible into English. It becomes known as the "**King James Bible**" and is still one of the most widely used versions today.

more

3. A Brief History of the Bible in English

panel 2

20th Century - Many new translations are created to meet the changing language of English readers.

Two of the most popular are:
The New Revised Standard (NRSV) and
The New International Version (NIV).

2003 - **Bongo** Loves the Bible is created by Sunday Software. Sid the Mummy tries to burn **Bongo** at the stake but Bongo is too quick.



March 2003 -- Archaeologists discover the following metal scroll surrounded by orangutan bones in a 2000 year old dig site. Its meaning is still unclear.



How might the Bible be reproduced and taught 1000 years from now?

back

4. Translating the Bible

The original scriptures were written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. That means all Bibles in English are "versions," or "translations" of the original texts.

Scholars often have to make difficult choices about **which** words and word-orders correctly translate the meaning of the original language into a new language.

Sometimes, scholars discover that an ancient word **doesn't mean** what they thought it meant, and so must change their translation. Scholars thought the original Hebrew ending of Psalm 23 meant, "and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." But many translators, now believe that the **original Hebrew probably meant**, **...my whole life long.** Quite a difference!



Some translators disagree over whether the Hebrew verb **sanah** in Judges 1:14 means that daughter of Caleb, "got off her donkey" or that she **'broke wind.'**



How does your Bible translate that verse?

Before printing presses, Bibles were hand-copied. Sometimes words were added or left out. Scholars compare newer versions with older ones. But some of the oldest are only in **fragments**. A good study Bible will provide you with important translation **options**. For example, read what your study Bible says about Mark 16:8-9.

Some Bible translations are made easier to read than others. For example, the popular Good News Bible translates the original Greek phrase "three **shekels** of silver" as "three silver **coins**."

What Bible version do you use at home, worship, and in the classroom?

5. More Translations to Come?

Over time, language changes. Compare the following texts of John 3:16 as they appear in these famous English translations.

Can you find the phrase from which Tolkien created the term "**Middle Earth**" for his Lord of the Rings books?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

--New Revised Standard Bible, 1987

"For God so loued the world, that he gaue his only begotten Sonne: that whosoever beleueth in him, should not perish, but haue everlasting life." --King James Bible, 1611



"For god loued so the world; that he gaf his oon bigetun sone, that eche man that bileueth in him perisch not; but haue euerlastyng e liif,"

--Wycliff's first Bible in English, 1380

"God lufode middan-eard swa, dat he seade his an-cennedan sunu, dat nan ne forworde de on hine gely ac habbe dat, ece lif."

--from an Anglo-Saxon (pre-English) Bible manuscript, 995 AD

What new words can you come up with for John 3:16 that mean the same as these versions?



6. How should we read the Bible?

Some Christians believe everything in the Bible is without errors, "inerrant" and "infallible." But many Christians believe that the Bible contains some ideas and rules which are the product of another age and way of thinking, and are no longer appropriate to teach.

For example, Leviticus 21:17 says people with flat noses, or who are blind or lame, cannot worship God at the altar. Similarly, the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14 that, "It is shameful for a woman to speak in church."

All Christians believe that God uses the words of the Bible to teach us great truths. In that way it is "inspired by God's Spirit," and meant to be studied with great care.

What does your church believe about reading the Bible?

Some Christians believe every event in the Bible happened exactly as described. They are called "literalists." Many Christians do not think every verse is meant to be read literally. For example, Joshua 10:13 says the sun stood still during battle. "Non-literalists" believe "sun stood still" is a poetic phrase, and does not describe an actual stoppage. **Some scriptures should be read literally and others non-literally.**

The Bible sometimes offers **two points of view** on the same subject. Numbers 23:19 says that, "God is not a man ... that he should change his mind." But Jonah 3:10 says "God changed his mind..." Matthew 27:5 says that Judas threw his money in the Temple, ran out and hung himself. Acts 1:18 says he went out and bought a field, fell down and died there.

[more](#)

6. How should we read the Bible?

panel 2

The Bible is the world's most amazing book. As it is passed down, each new generation hears God's voice speaking through its words. That is why we call the Bible the "inspired word of God." Far from being an "old book," the Bible continues to offer God's life-giving breath. And so as we read the Bible -we are in fact, **listening** for God's guiding and comforting voice and spirit.



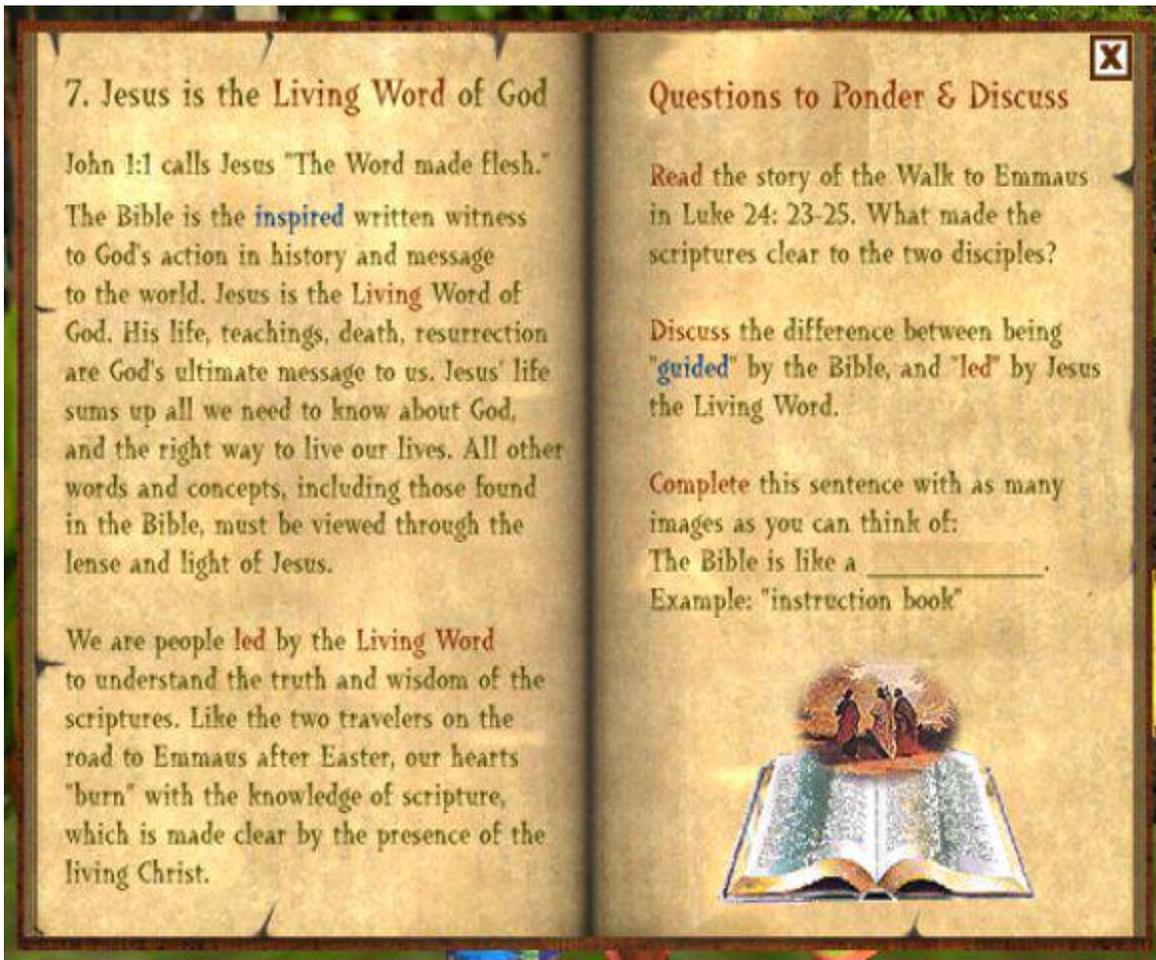
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Understanding the World in Which the Bible was Written...

The Bible was written in a pre-scientific time. Its authors did not know about planets or germs. They had different and often **strange ideas** about the role of women in society, the handicapped, illnesses, and the "right way" to worship God. They described the creation of the world in the only way they could --unscientifically.

Most Christians agree that we need to be able to tell the difference **between God's voice** in scripture, and the **voices of its long ago authors**. We do this through study, discussion, debate, and prayer.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse?
What is that verse trying to tell YOU?
How do you make time to study the Bible?
What more can you do to study the Bible?



Here is a list of the optional discussion questions which are found on the Bible Stands:

Bible Stand 2-2:

What are some other ways the Bible is transmitted forward (published & shared) in your day?
 What can you do to make sure the Bible is passed to the next generation?

Bible Stand 3-2:

How might the Bible be reproduce (published) and taught 1000 years from now?

Bible Stand 4:

Judges 1:14 What words does your translation use to translate this verse?
 What Bible versions do you use at home, worship, and in the classroom?

Bible Stand 5:

What new words can you come up with for John 3:16?

Bible Stand 6-1:

What does your church believe about reading the Bible?

Bible Stand 6-2:

Do you have a favorite Bible verse?
 What is that verse trying to tell you?

How do you make time to study the Bible?
 What more can you do to study the Bible?

Bible Stand 7:

Read Luke 24:23-25. What made the scriptures "clear" to the disciples?
 Discuss the difference between being "guided" by the Bible, and being "led" by Jesus the Living Word.
 Complete this sentence with as many images as you can think of:

The Bible is like a _____ (Example: "instruction book.")

