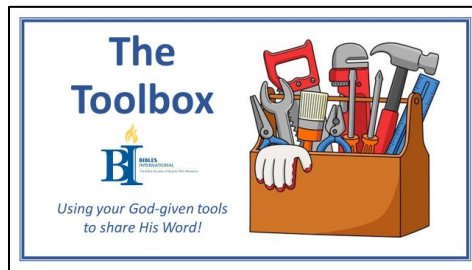


The Toolbox

Lesson 1 – “Mrs. Reed’s Toolbox” (USA)

INTRODUCTION



(Slide 1 – “The Toolbox”)

Welcome to **“The Toolbox”**! In the next five lessons, we’re going to learn that God has given us special “tools” to share His Word. We’ll talk about what those tools are and meet people around the world who are opening their “toolbox” and using their “tools” to help others know God. We will also learn how we can do that too!



(Slide 2 – Assortment of tools)

Tools are important! We use them every day—hammers for pounding nails, saws for cutting, wrenches for turning bolts, and screwdrivers to remove screws and put them back in again. Without these tools and many others, we would have a much harder time making new things or fixing old ones.

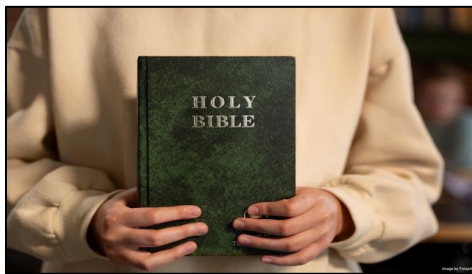
Some people have lots of tools. Others have only a few. Regardless of the number, we always keep our favorite tools, the ones that we use all of the time. We depend upon them, even if we still like to buy new ones.



(Slide 3 – Assortment of toolboxes)

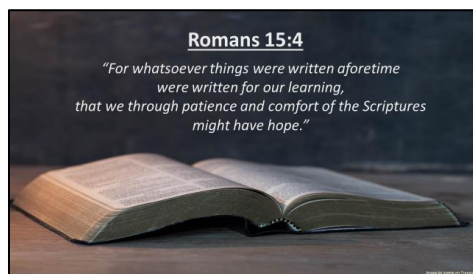
Since tools are so important to us, we usually keep them together in a specific place, so that we can easily find them when we need them. We keep them in a *toolbox*.

A toolbox is usually made of wood or metal or plastic, but it could be a basket or a bag. It can be large or small, with a lid or without one. It may be painted red or black or any other color, or it might not be painted at all. Sometimes a toolbox is new, but usually it's old, since we keep it for a long time.



(Slide 4 – Bible in hands)

God has given a very special “tool” to the world to help every person know about Him. That tool is the Bible, and by reading it, we learn about Him, how much He loves us, and what He has done for us.



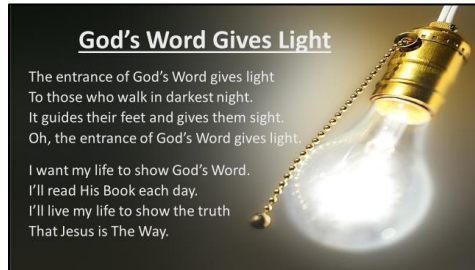
(Slide 5 – Bible verse)

A verse in the Bible, Romans 15:4, tells us...

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Everything God has placed in the Bible is just as important for us today as it was for His people in the past. He wants us to know it so that we can learn from it.

It is important that we read and study our Bible, and memorize verses like this one, so that God's Word guides us each day. God's Word gives light to our way.



(Slide 6 – Song “God’s Word Gives Light)

The entrance of God's Word gives light
To those who walk in darkest night.
It guides their feet and gives them sight.
Oh, the entrance of God's Word gives light.

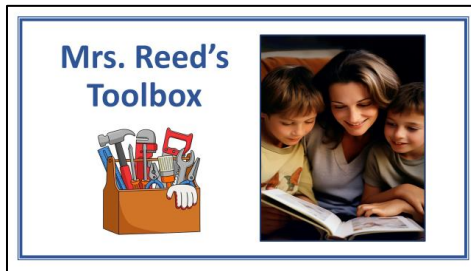
I want my life to show God's Word.
I'll read His Book each day.
I'll live my life to show the truth
That Jesus is The Way.



(Slide 7 – God-given tools)

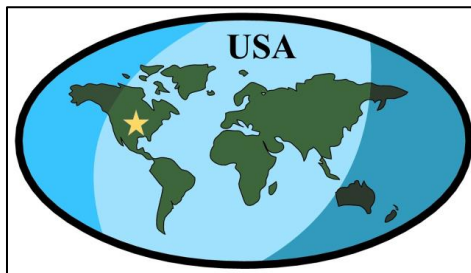
The Bible is the greatest tool God has given us for knowing Him and telling others how they can know Him too. He has also given us special gifts, abilities, talents, and creative ways of telling others. We can think of these as tools as well, tools that He wants us to use every day.

MISSIONS STORY



(Slide 8 – “Mrs. Reed’s Toolbox”)

I’d like to tell you about a woman who opened her “toolbox” and used her “tools” for God in a very creative way. Listen as I tell you about it, and I think you’ll understand just what I mean.



(Slide 9 – World map with star on USA)

Our story today begins in the United States, in the home of a woman named Mrs. Reed.



(Slide 10 – Yellow house)

Mrs. Reed’s home is a popular place. All of the neighborhood children like to go there. They like to hang out on the front porch during the warm summer days and the kitchen and family room on cold winter afternoons. It’s a comfortable home with plenty of snacks, drinks, and laughter.

Mrs. Reed has four children of her own, but she loves other people’s children, too, and welcomes them into her home. There’s always something to do at Mrs. Reed’s house, and the children have a good time playing together.



(Slide 11 – Woman reading to children)

Sometimes when the children are tired of playing, they pick out a book and Mrs. Reed happily reads to them for a while. Some of the children are older and some are younger, but all of them like a good story. It's easy for each child to have a favorite book, since there are lots of books in the Reed home.

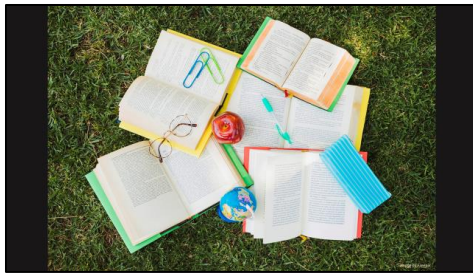


(Slide 12 – Children reading at bookshelves)

One afternoon, as the children were choosing a book for her to read to them, Mrs. Reed asked them a question.

“What would it be like if you didn't have any books at your house, or here at my house, or at school, or even at the library? What if there were none on the bookshelves and none on the internet? What if you had no books at all, anywhere, because they didn't even *exist* in your language?”

The children were shocked. *Imagine having no books!* They just couldn't imagine what it would be like if there were *no* books at all. The children knew that some people have more books than others, but how could it be that there were *no* books, *no* magazines, *and no* mail, *nothing* to read on the internet?



(Slide 13 – Books on grass)

Mrs. Reed began to tell the children about people in other parts of the world who don't have any books in their house or anywhere else.

“Sometimes they don't have money to buy books,” she explained, “but sometimes there simply *aren't* any books written in their language. The only books available are written in *someone else's* language.”



(Slide 14 – Boy thinking)

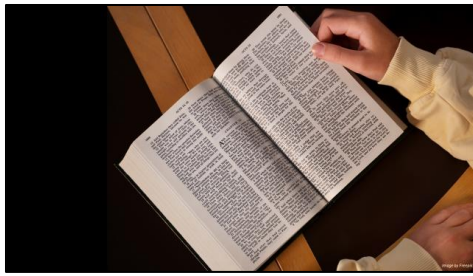
The children were quiet as she talked. The oldest boy, Marc, was trying to picture what it would be like if he went home and there were no books, comics, or even cereal boxes to read. *Nothing* in his own language!



(Slide 15 – Woman and children reading at table)

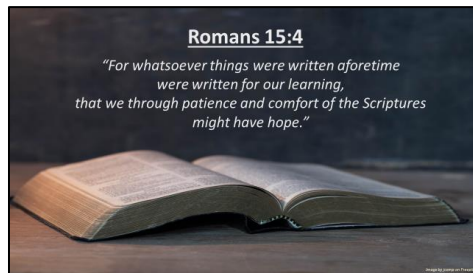
Mrs. Reed touched her Bible on the table. “What if you or I couldn't read the Bible?” she asked. “What if we didn't even have God's Word in our language?”

The room was so quiet that they could hear the dog barking outside. The children were thinking hard, trying to imagine what it would *really* be like to have nothing to read in their own language, and no Bible to read—not even a few verses of it!



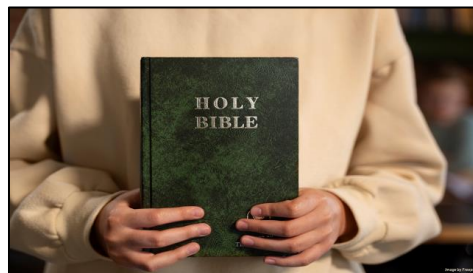
(Slide 16 – Open Bible)

Mrs. Reed continued, “The Bible is God’s message to you. It contains everything He wants you to know and learn and remember, everything He wants you to do and not do. In the Bible, He tells you how much He loves you and wants you to be close to Him forever. He tells you that He wants to save you from your sin, your disobedience to Him,” Mrs. Reed added.



(Slide 17 – Bible verse)

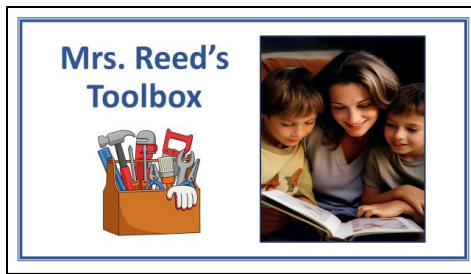
“In Romans 15:4, we read, ‘For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.’”



(Slide 18 – Bible in hands)

“There are people around the world,” said Mrs. Reed, “who do not have a Bible in their own language, a Bible they can hold and read whenever they want to. They must wait for someone else to tell them God’s words.”

“Children,” she said gently, “we must help them. We must help them have their own Bible.”



(Slide 19 – “Mrs. Reed’s Toolbox”)

For Mrs. Reed, her home is her toolbox. Her love for the children and time spent reading books to them are the tools she uses to teach them about God’s love. Yet her Bible is her greatest tool for sharing the Gospel.

Could you be like Mrs. Reed and help others learn about God? Would you like to help someone have a Bible in their own language?

MISSIONS PROJECT



(Slide 20 – “Bibles International”)

Bibles International wants everyone to have a Bible in their own language! In fact, their desire is to have “a reliable Bible translation in every language and a Bible in every hand.”

Right now, Bibles International is working on a special project with a group of people living in Central Africa. These people are called the Mbum-Nzakambay (*mm-BOOM nn-ZAH-kahm-bye*).



(Slide 21 – African women preparing food)

There are many distinct groups of people that live throughout the continent of Africa. Each group has its own customs, its own traditional clothing, its own favorite recipes, and even its own language. All of these are passed down from one generation to another.



(Slide 22 – Green map of Africa)

One of these groups, the Mbum-Nzakambay (*mm-BOOM nn-ZAH-kahm-bye*), is spread out across three countries in Central Africa—Chad, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic. There are more than 31,000 people in this group. The largest number of them (over 18,000) live in Chad.



(Slide 23 – African woman and man)

Many tribes in Africa speak French. Some of the Mbum-Nzakambay speak French as well, if they learned it in elementary school. However, French is not the language they speak at home and in their community. It is not the language they learned first from their parents and grandparents. It is not their “mother tongue.”

They have their *own* language, called Nzakambay (*nn-ZAH-kahm-bye*). (Yes, the Mbum-Nzakambay people speak Nzakambay!)



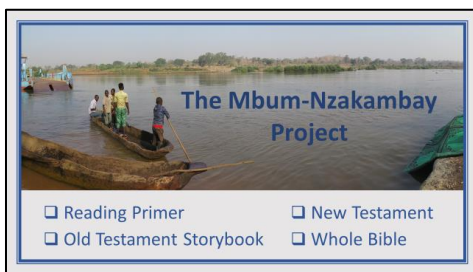
(Slide 24 – Outdoor meeting)

There are thousands of adults and children who attend church and want to have a whole Bible in *their* language. These Christians want to preach, sing, and worship God in their *own* language, because it is the language of their heart.



(Slide 25 – Bible translation team)

So, the Mbum-Nzakambay asked Bibles International to help them have a good translation of the Bible in their own language. Bibles International has agreed, and the Bible translation project will begin *this* year! (2025)



(Slide 26 – “The Mbum-Nzakambay Project”)

A team of nationals and Bibles International consultants will work together to translate the whole Bible into their language—first the New Testament and then the rest of the Bible.

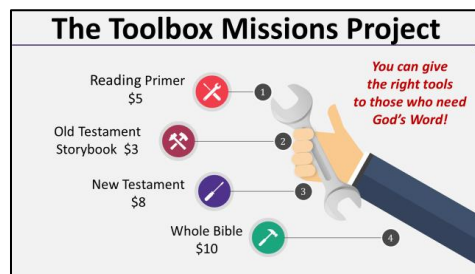
They will also create some new “tools” to help them learn to read the Bible and understand it better when it is ready. These materials are a Reading Primer (*PRIMM-er*) and an Old Testament Storybook.

I’ll tell you more about those materials another day, but first, Bibles International needs your help. How can you help?



(Slide 27 – Outstretched hands with coins)

You can help Bibles International print these materials for the Mbum-Nzakambay by putting money in our special offering! When you “offer” your money to God and to Bibles International, you make it possible for a child or adult in Africa to read God’s Word in their own language!



(Slide 28 – Toolbox missions project costs)

It doesn’t take much money to give an important tool to the Mbum-Nzakambay (*mm-BOOM nn-ZAH-kahm-bye*). It costs only...

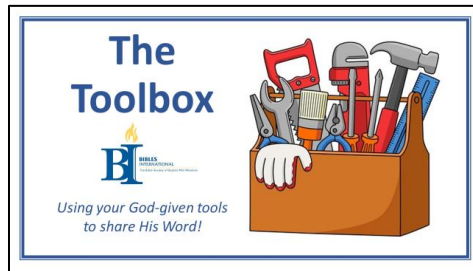
- \$5 to print a large Reading Primer for a child or adult who is learning to read
- \$3 to print a colorful Old Testament Storybook to help early readers begin to read and understand God’s Word
- \$8 to print a New Testament for someone who needs to hear about Jesus
- \$10 to print the whole Bible in the Nzakambay language

Would you like to help these people in Africa have their own Bible? Would you like to pay for their Primer or Storybook, so that they can learn to read and understand their Bible?

[Teacher: Promote and collect the Mbum-Nzakambay Project offering as desired.]

You can also help by *praying* for this tribe in Africa, for Bibles International, and for God’s blessing on the translating of His Word and reading materials for the Mbum-Nzakambay.

CONCLUSION



(Slide 29 – “The Toolbox”)

The next time we meet, I will tell you more about the Mbum-Nzakambay people. I will also tell you about a young boy in Africa and his grandfather.

[Teacher: Distribute the Lesson 1 Activity Sheet as desired.]