

06 – The Fifth Day of Christmas

Genesis 1:1

Objective: The students will learn that the first five books of the Old Testament are called “the Law” and will learn the names of the first book – Genesis.

Step 1: Link: Gold rings (if possible, bring a plain gold band with you to class, or five of them!)

Gold rings can have a lot of meaning. What do you think of when you see a gold ring? (wait. Marriage, promises, eternity (the round shape often symbolizes eternity), value, beauty...)

Step 2a: Introduction

Today we will continue to sing about gifts that someone gave to me. Who gave me a partridge in a pear tree, two turtledoves, etc.? (wait. My true love) And who is my true love? (wait) My true love is God. God is perfect, holy, true love.

Today we will talk about the fifth day of Christmas. On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave me some golden rings. How many golden rings did my true love give to me? (wait. Five. Seems like a silly question, but gets them opening their mouths and using English during a Bible time.)

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me – five golden rings!

Notice that the adjectival form of ‘gold’ is ‘golden.’ ‘Gold’ is a noun, ‘golden’ is an adjective. But in today’s English the noun ‘gold’ is almost always used for the adjective also. We now say ‘a gold ring’ rather than ‘a golden ring.’

We have been learning the hidden Christian meanings of the gifts my true love gave to me. Today we will learn the hidden Christian meaning of the five golden rings.

Step 2b: Background:

The five golden rings remind us of the first five books of the Old Testament. The first five books of the Old Testament are like a five-volume set. They are very important because they contain God’s law. In fact, these books are called the “Law”. The 10 commandments are written in the first five books of the Old Testament.

So, what do the five golden rings mean? (wait. This is immediate review. Were they listening? Did they understand?...)

Step 3: Questions

Let’s find the very first book of the Old Testament. We will read the very first verse of the Old Testament. The very first verse of the Old Testament is also the very first verse of the Bible.

What is the name of the first book of the Old Testament? (wait. Genesis)

Ok, let's read Genesis 1:1. What does Genesis 1:1 teach us? (God made the heavens and the earth in the beginning)

Step 4: Read Genesis 1:1

Step 5: Answer the question. "What does Genesis 1:1 teach us?"

It teaches us that God made the heavens and the earth in the beginning. In the beginning, what was there? What was in the beginning? (wait) Scientists would tell us that in the beginning there was nothing. What does the Bible tell us? (wait. That in the beginning there was God.)

This is a very important truth. The God of the Bible has no beginning! In the beginning the God of the Bible was already there. He is eternal. He does not change.

He is also very powerful. How do we know that He is powerful? (wait. He created the heavens and the earth! He created everything, the whole universe! That shows a lot of power.)

God is eternal and powerful. He is the creator. What are we? (wait. We are His creation. We are His creatures. See note below)

Yes, we are His creation. We are His creatures. He can do anything He wants with us. He does not have to save any of us. But He is loving and full of mercy, and He saves all who believe and trust in Him. In the song, "The 12 Days of Christmas," what do we call God? (wait. My true love) Truly God is love. I am so thankful that He is my true love. Can you believe in Him and make Him your true love? I am praying for you and hoping that someday, maybe today, you will accept Jesus as your true love.

Note: Be careful to help them realize that God's 'people' are the ones who believe in Him. Here is how I would handle it if a student answered "What are we?" by saying that "We are His people." I would say, "Yes, everyone who believes in the God of the Bible and His Son, Jesus Christ, becomes one of His people. But the Bible does not teach that everyone is one of God's people. How does someone become one of God's people?" etc. This leads very naturally into a discussion of belief and faith. This is one track that you could pursue.