Story & Discovery — Novel Study: Reading with Purpose

Teacher Guide

PREP: 5 min

Learning Objectives

- Explain what it means to read with purpose.
- Use predicting, questioning, and connecting while reading.
- Connect purposeful reading to understanding God's Word.

BEFORE the Lesson (~5 min prep)

LAUNCH QUESTION -- Ask before the child starts:

Have you ever finished a chapter of a book and realized you have no idea what just happened?

Vocabulary Preview

Term	Definition
annotate	To write notes or mark up a text to help you remember and understand important ideas.
prediction	A guess about what will happen next, based on clues from the text.
summarize	To retell the most important points of a text briefly and in your own words.
literary	Related to books and written works, especially stories, poems, and plays.
journal	A notebook where you write your thoughts, responses, and reflections about what you read.

Watch For (Common Misconceptions)

- Reading faster means you understand better.
- Annotating is just for schoolwork, not for personal reading.
- You only need to predict once at the beginning of a book.
- Asking questions about a story means you didn't understand it.

DURING the Lesson

In this online lesson, your child will learn what it means to read with purpose and practice three key strategies: predicting, questioning, and connecting. They will watch a short video or read an interactive text that explains each strategy, then write a 200–300 word response using the strategies on a book they have read recently.

Check-in Prompts (in order)

- Before starting, ask: 'What do you think it means to read with purpose?'
- After the first strategy explanation, check: 'Can you tell me one prediction you might make about a book you're reading?'
- After the practice writing, review their response together and ask them to point out where they used each strategy.

AFTER the Lesson

Discussion Questions

1. Why is reading with purpose like having a lamp for your feet, as Psalm 119:105 describes?

Look for:
Student connects purposeful reading to paying attention to God's Word; a lamp only helps if we look at it.

2. How does making predictions while reading help you understand the story better?

Look for:
Predictions keep you engaged, help you anticipate events, and make you look for clues.

3. Can you give an example of a connection you made while reading a book recently?

Look for:
Any personal, text-to-self, text-to-world, or text-to-text connection is valid.

4. How might using questioning and connecting help you understand a passage from the Bible?

Look for:
Questions help uncover meaning, connections show how it applies to life; both deepen understanding.

Quick Comprehension Check

Q1: What are the three strategies for reading with purpose taught in this lesson?

Expected: Predicting, questioning, and connecting.

Q2: Why is it important to read the Bible with purpose?

Expected: Because God's Word is a lamp to our feet, and we need to pay attention to its light to understand God better.

Q3: What does it mean to 'annotate' a text?

Expected: To write notes or mark up a text to help remember and understand important ideas.

Extension Activity: Read with Purpose – Bible Edition

Choose a short Bible passage (like Psalm 23 or a few verses from a Gospel story). Before reading, write one prediction. While reading, write down one question that comes to mind. After reading, write one connection (to your life, another story, or God's character). Then share your three notes with a parent and discuss how reading with purpose helped you understand the passage better.

Materials:

- Bible or Bible app
- paper or journal
- pen or pencil

BIBLICAL CONNECTION

God's Word is Worth Reading Carefully

Psalm 119:105

- Psalm 119:105 says God's Word is a lamp to our feet. How does reading with purpose make that lamp shine brighter?
- When we read the Bible, we can ask 'Why did God include this?' That's the Author's Intent. How does that help us know God?
- Connecting Bible stories to our own lives helps us see that God's message is still relevant today.

PARENT ONLY -- ANSWER KEYS

Do not share this page with the student.

Quiz Answer Key

#	Question	Correct Answer	Explanation
1	What does it mean to "read with purpose" in a novel study?	**To read with a plan, looking for key details and understanding the author's message.**	*The lesson teaches that reading with purpose means reading with a plan, carefully looking for important details and trying to understand the author's message.*
2	According to the lesson, what is one special benefit of "Reading with Purpose"?	**It's like having a superpower that helps you dive deep into new worlds and ideas.**	*The lesson describes reading with purpose as being 'like having a superpower' because it helps you dive deep into stories and discover incredible ideas.*