

BARLEYFIELD
Christian Ministries

God-Breathed and Profitable

What does the whole Bible say about...ITSELF?



Participant Manual

Lesson 1 - What is the Bible?

Scripture is the _____ divinely inspired writings, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, which in their original languages are the only divinely authoritative source and rule for knowing God and His salvation.

What this means is that as Christians we believe that God has _____ Himself to us.

*"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has **in these last days spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and **the express image of His person**, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high," (Heb 1:1-3)*

"He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God." (Rev 19:13)

CHAPTER 1 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What's on your mind after having watched this session?

Describe your own story of your relationship with the Bible, including what your attitude towards it has been, how it has or has not featured in your life, and why you currently read it or not.

Lesson 2 - What does the Bible claim about itself?

Part A

If the Bible is the Word of God and the ultimate standard of truth in life, then it follows that the only credible way of understanding what the Bible is is to see what the Bible claims about _____.

"As Christians we go to the Bible to get our view of God, of man, etc., so we also go to the Bible to get our view of the Bible."

– **B.B. Warfield**

“And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? 20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isa 8:19-20)

CLAIMS THE BIBLE MAKES ABOUT ITSELF:

The Bible claims that... both the Old and New Testaments came into being as the Spirit of _____ testified through people.

*“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, **the Spirit of Christ who was in them** was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—*

things which angels desire to look into.” - 1 Pet 1:10-12

The Bible claims to be... _____ - _____.

*“From childhood you have been acquainted with the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 **All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:15-17)*

Notice that the Bible claims of itself that _____ its words are the words of God, not just the words of men.

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” (Isa 7:14)

—> *“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by **the Lord through the prophet**, saying: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (Matt 1:22-23)*

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Gen 2:24)

—> *"And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,' and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH' ?” (Matt 19:5)*

Another example can be seen by comparing: *Ps 69:25, 109:8* —> *Acts 1:16, 20*

The Bible claims to be... both fully _____ and fully _____.

The Bible claims that... God _____ all Scripture.

*“...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for **prophecy never came by the will of man**, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” - 2 Pet 1:20-21*

The Bible claims to be... _____: it reveals what we need to know to be _____.

"For 'WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.' How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? ... So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom 10:13-15a, 17)

*“15 Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and **we bring you good news**, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. 16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” (Act 14:15-17)*

CHAPTER 2 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What's on your mind after having watched this session?

Did you learn anything about the Bible tonight that was completely new to you? Explain.

Read **Acts 8:26-40**. What was the Ethiopian eunuch reading? Why did he not understand it, and how did Philip give him the key to comprehend it (see v35)? What specifically do you think Philip said about the verses the man quoted? How do you explain his immediate acceptance of the message (see v 8:37). What can we learn from these verses for today?

Lesson 3 - What does the Bible claim about itself?

Part B

The Bible claims to be... _____ to affect change in us.

*“For **the word of God is living and powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” - **Heb 4:12***

*“Is not My word like a fire?’ says the LORD, ‘And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?’” (**Jer 23:29**)*

THE NEED FOR THE SPIRIT TO APPLY THE WORD

“Now the word is only an instrument; it is not the efficient cause of all this; as a hammer is but an instrument, and a passive one, it can do nothing of itself; it must be taken up and used by a powerful hand, or it can do no execution; what is a hammer without a hand? So the Gospel is only an instrument in the hand of the Lord; but when he takes it into his own hand, and strikes with it, it will break the hardest heart in pieces, and make a stony heart a heart of flesh, Eze 36:26.”

- John Gill (1697 - 1771), commentary on Jer 23:29

*“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance.” - **1 Thess 1:5***

“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to

you.” **(John 15:3)**

“...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” **(Rom 1:16)**

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” **(1 Cor 1:18, 23-24)**

“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” - **1 Cor 2:4-5**

“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” **(Rom 6:17-18)**

“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also **effectively works in you who believe.**” **(1 Thess 2:13)**

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, **that you may grow thereby.**” **(1 Peter 2:2)**

“The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.” (Ps 119:130)

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isa 55:11)

The Bible claims to be... _____ inspired, with its single focus being _____.

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” (John 5:39)

“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:27)

*"Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms **concerning Me.**" And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures." (Luk 24:44-45)*

“We believe this doctrine of the plenary inspiration of the Scriptures primarily because it is the doctrine which Christ and his apostles believed, and which they have taught us. It may sometimes seem difficult to take our stand frankly by the side of Christ and his apostles. It will always be found safe.”

- B. B. Warfield,

The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible, 128

CHAPTER 3 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What's on your mind after having watched this session?

Have you had any powerful encounters with God's Word? Or has a certain portion of Scripture ever had a dramatic effect on your life? Explain.

Read **1 Tim 2:7** and **Acts 10:42**. How do you think modern people view "preaching"? What is your own attitude towards preachers and preaching? What place do you think preaching and teaching should have within church life?

Lesson 4 - What does the Bible claim about itself?

Part C

The Bible claims to be... _____.

Because Scripture is God's word and God cannot _____ or be _____ (Titus 1:2), therefore the Bible never deceives or is mistaken.

"Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven." **Ps 119:89**

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." **(John 17:17)**

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." **Mark 13:31**

"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward." **(Psa 19:7-11)**

The Bible claims to be... _____.

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Cor 2:14)

By reading (or hearing) the Scriptures _____ mentally capable people can understand how to be saved and live a holy life. Scripture (and Scripture alone) is _____ for these things.

“Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'” (Luke 16:29-31)

“For we do not write to you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully...” (2 Cor 1:13-14)

CONCLUSION

What all this means is that the Bible has complete _____ over us.

“Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 5:19)

CHAPTER 4 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What's on your mind after having watched this session?

Read **Matthew 12:1-8**, **Matthew 19:4-6** and **Mark 12:18-27**. Do you think it was fair for Jesus to rebuke people for not understanding the Scriptures? What do you think it means when we say that the Scriptures are “clear”?

How do you feel about reading your Bible? In what ways does it have authority in your life?

Lesson 5 - Can we trust the Bible?

Part A

JESUS' VIEW OF THE BIBLE

According to Jesus, Scripture is _____ Word:

- Matthew 4:1-10; Luke 4:1-12; Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:5-13; Matthew 19:4-5; Matthew 22:31-32; Mark 12:26; Mark 12:36

According to Jesus, Scripture is _____ _____:

- **Creation:** Matthew 19:4-5; Mark 10:6-8
- **Abel:** Luke 11:51
- **Noah:** Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27
- **Abraham:** John 8:56-58
- **Circumcision:** John 7:22
- **Sodom and Gomorrah:** Matthew 10:15; 11:23-24; Luke 10:12
- **Lot:** Luke 17:28-32
- **Isaac and Jacob:** Matthew 8:11; Luke 13:28
- **Moses:** Matthew 8:4; 19:8; Mark 1:44; 7:10; 10:5; 12:26; Luke 5:14; 20:37; John 5:46; 7:19
- **Manna:** John 6:31, 49, 58
- **David:** Matthew 12:3-4; 22:43; Mark 2:25-26; 12:36; Luke 6:3-4; 20:42
- **Solomon:** Matthew 6:29; 12:42; Luke 11:31; 12:27
- **Elijah and Elisha:** Luke 4:25-27
- **Jonah:** Matthew 12:39-42; Luke 11:29 -32
- **Zechariah:** Luke 11:51
- **Prophets:** Matthew 5:12; 13:57; 21:34-36; 23:39-37; Mark 6:4; 12:2-5; Luke 6:23; 11:47-51; 13:34; 20:10-12

According to Jesus, Scripture is _____ and _____:

- Matthew 5:17-20; Matthew 13:14; Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13; Matthew 19: 16-19 “Do these and you shall live”; Mark 10:17-19; Luke 18:18-20; Matthew 21:42; Matthew 22:29; Mark 12:24; Matthew 23:2; Matthew 26:54, 56; Mark 14:49; Luke 16:17; Luke 16:29-31; Luke 22:37; Luke 24:25-27, 44; John 10:35; John 13:18; John 17:12

“Jesus Christ himself provides a most arresting example in this respect. At the very threshold of his public ministry, our Lord, in his dramatic victory over Satan’s threefold onslaught, rested his whole defense on the authority of three passages of Scripture. He quoted the Old Testament in support of his teaching to the crowds; he quoted it in his discussions with antagonistic Jews; he quoted it in answer to questions both captious and sincere; he quoted it in instructing the disciples who would have readily accepted his teaching on his own authority; he referred to it in his prayers, when alone in the presence of the Father; he quoted it on the cross, when his sufferings could easily have drawn his attention elsewhere; he quoted it in his resurrection glory, when any limitation, real or alleged, of the days of his flesh was clearly superseded. Whatever may be the differences between the pictures of Jesus drawn by the four Gospels, they certainly agree in their representation of our Lord’s attitude toward the Old Testament: one of constant use and of unquestioning endorsement of its authority.”

- **Roger Nicole,**

“The New Testament Use of the Old Testament,” in *Revelation and the Bible*

According to Jesus, Scripture is the source of true _____ and spiritual _____:

- John 5:39-47; John 17:17

According to Jesus, Scripture consists of _____ the Old Testament and the New Testament:

- OT: Matthew 5:17; 7:12; 22:37-40; Luke 11:51; 24:25-27, 44
- NT: Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:25-26; 16:12-15

Conclusion: Jesus believed that *what Scripture says, God says!*

It has been said with truth that the attempt to evade the evidence for our Lord's teaching the God-giveness of Scripture is as futile as a mathematician's attempt to prove that it is theoretically possible to dodge an avalanche. He may satisfy himself that the trajectory of each boulder is calculable and that an agile man could step out of the way of any one of them. Critical ingenuity may satisfy itself that I can, one by one, find ways of disposing of many of Jesus' statements about the Old Testament. But these statements cannot reasonably be considered independently. They form together a great avalanche of cumulative evidence that cannot honestly be evaded.

- **John Wenham**, "Christ's View of Scripture," in *Inerrancy*

THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES

The church was built upon the testimony of the Apostles, so their view of Scripture is also important:

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone," (Eph 2:19-20)

The Apostles were Jewish men who believed that all they had experienced and witnessed was the _____ of the Old Testament Scriptures. That is why they constantly quote the Old Testament in their writings as authoritative:

*“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which **God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets** since the world began.” (Act 3:19-21)*

“Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Pet 1:21)

The Apostles authenticated each other’s writings. For example:

- Peter accepted _____ writings as Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16: *“and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also **the rest of the Scriptures.**”*)
- Paul accepted _____ Gospel as Scripture (1 Tim 5:17-18: *“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For **the Scripture says**, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE AN OX WHILE IT TREADS OUT THE GRAIN,” (from Deut 25:4) and, “THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS WAGES (from Luke 10:7).”*

“Nobody dies for a fiction, and nobody dies for a hoax. If your goal in writing something was simply to write a novel or to perpetrate a deception, you don’t stick to the story once the jig is up and your head is about to come off. The only way you stick to the story under those circumstances is if you really believe that what you wrote actually happened. And that’s exactly what we have in the people who wrote the New Testament. Even as they wrote and taught, they knew they could be killed for what they were saying. And yet through all the threats and all the promises, even up to the moment of their own deaths, they kept on saying it. Slice it however you like. These guys were not writing fiction, and they were not lying. They believed what they wrote, and they wanted us to believe it too.”

- **Greg Gilbert**, *Why Trust The Bible*

CHAPTER 5 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What's on your mind after having watched this session?

Read **Matthew 24:37-39** and **Matthew 12:38-41**. Notice how Jesus accepted as historical Noah and the global flood, and Jonah and the great fish. Does Jesus' view of the historical accuracy of the Bible surprise you? Do you think it is important to accept the histories of the Bible as true?

How do you think studying the Bible together with others helps us appreciate it more fully?

Lesson 6 - Can we trust the Bible?

Part B

THE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

What New Testament “textual criticism” does is it seeks to establish the authenticity of the copies that we do have by _____ them with one another in order to get as close to the original as possible.

First factor for textual criticism: the _____ of the text.

The ancient Jewish scribes are recognised as being the most _____ and _____ of all ancient copyists.

A single copy would be used for _____ of years.

“Books in general were far more valuable to ancient people than they are to us today and they, therefore, probably kept better care of them than we do. Even now, when we’re able to print books every year by the millions, you can walk into just about any used bookstore and find books that are one or two or even three hundred years old. People make their books last! And that was even more the case in ancient times, when literally weeks of labor would go into copying a book. Scholars have learned from looking in old libraries that people regularly used books for 100–150 years before making a new copy and discarding the old. We see one fascinating example of this practice in what we call the Codex Vaticanus, a copy of the New Testament that was originally made in the fourth century but that scribes re-inked in the tenth century so it could continue to be used. Do you see what that means? Codex Vaticanus was still in use six hundred years after it was originally made! Here’s the point: when books were regularly kept in use for literally hundreds of years, a gap of forty-five to seventy-five years between the original New Testament documents and our earliest extant (extant means surviving or existent) copies is just not that long. In fact, it’s more than a little likely that the originals, penned by the authors themselves, would have been preserved and used to make countless new copies over decades or even centuries before they were lost. Therefore the claim that all we have are “copies of copies of copies of copies” of the originals is far overwrought. Indeed, it’s very well within the realm of possibility that we have in our own museums today copies of the originals, full stop.”

- **Greg Gilbert**, *Why Trust The Bible*

Second factor for textual criticism: the _____ of the manuscripts.

We have an astonishingly large number of ancient manuscripts and the _____ amongst this multitude of texts is of an astronomically high level.

Third factor for textual criticism: the _____ of the manuscripts.

“The charge that we cannot know what the originals said is patently and utterly false. The gap between the originals and our earliest extant copies of them is—in the grand scheme of things—not that long at all. And far from diminishing our ability to identify what the originals said, the vast number of existing copies actually allows us to reason out deductively, to a very high degree of historical confidence, what John, Luke, Paul, and the other writers of the New Testament actually wrote.”

- **Greg Gilbert**, *Why Trust The Bible*

“Since scholars accept as generally trustworthy the writings of the ancient classics, even though the earliest manuscripts were written so long after the original writings and the number of extant manuscripts is in many instances so small, it is clear that the reliability of the text of the New Testament is likewise assured.”

- **J. Harold Greenlee**,

Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism

“The overwhelming majority of the text of the Greek New Testament is firmly established. Where uncertainties remain, it is important to recognize that in no case is any doctrinal matter at issue.”

- **D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo**, *An Introduction to the New Testament*

OTHER EVIDENCE

_____ has also helped us confirm the histories of both the Old and New Testaments.

_____ prophecy is another dramatic confirmation that the Bible is the word of God.

*"I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and **new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them...** Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And **the things that are coming and shall come**, let them show these to them... Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, who carry the wood of their carved image, and pray to a god that cannot save. Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. **Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD?** And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me... Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, **declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'**" (Isa 42:8-9; 44:6-7; 45:21; 46:9-10)*

"Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He." (Joh 13:19)

“Known to God from eternity are all His works.” (Act 15:18)

THE NEED FOR THE INWARD PERSUASION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Despite all of this evidence, we can only come to a personal conviction of the Bible’s inspiration — that it is God’s own words to us — through an _____ of the Holy Spirit (John 6:44; 10:27; 1 Cor 2:10-14; 2 Cor 3:14-17)

“The church can bear witness to the canon of Scripture, but it cannot inwardly persuade us of its authority. If that were so the voice of the church would have greater force than the voice of God, and the whole state of man's salvation would be dependent on men. What could be more miserable than that?”

- **William Perkins**, *The Art of Prophecy*

“Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). Those who are Christ’s sheep hear the words of their great Shepherd as they read the words of Scripture, and they are convinced that these words are in fact the words of their Lord.”

- **Wayne Grudem**, *Systematic Theology*, 77.

CONCLUSION

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30-31)

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life." (John 5:39-40)

CHAPTER 6 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What's on your mind after having watched this session?

Read **Matt 1:22-23** and **Matt 26:51-56**. Notice how from the birth to the death of Christ the Bible emphasises how the words of the Old Testament prophets were now being fulfilled, and how in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus twice said that these things were happening “that the Scriptures might be fulfilled”. There are over 50 direct references like this to fulfilled prophecy in the Gospels alone. Why do you think this was so important for Jesus and the Apostles to emphasise?

Read the quote by William Perkins again. Why do you think Perkins said that it would be a “miserable” thing if we had to depend on the church to be inwardly persuaded of the authority of the Scriptures?

Lesson 7 - Why should I read the Bible?

The Bible is _____.

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16-17)*

“MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.” (Matt 4:4)

*“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But **his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.** He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.” (Psa 1:1-3)*

*“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, **that you may grow thereby,** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (1 Pet 2:2-3)*

The Bible _____ our minds.

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” (Romans 8:5-6)

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is— His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:1-2)*

“Let the inward change produce the outward. Where the spirit, the temper, and disposition of the mind are not renewed, an outward change is of but little worth, and but of short standing.”

- **Adam Clarke**, commentary on Rom 12:2

*“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set **your mind** on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Col 3:1-2)*

The Bible enables us to overcome our _____ by building knowledge, conviction and faith.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Pet 5:8)

*“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” But He answered and said, “**It is written**, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.’ (Deut 8:3) “ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set*

Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU,' and, IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.' (Ps 91) " Jesus said to him, "**It is written** again, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.' (Deut 6:16)" Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! **For it is written**, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' " Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him." **(Matt 4:1-11)**

The Bible enables us to prevail in _____.

"If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus answered him, "If you can believe, **all things are possible to him who believes.**" Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **But let him ask in faith**, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." **(Jas 1:5-8)**

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us,

whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." (1 John 5:14-15)

The more you know your Bible the more you know God's will and the promises He has made us. And the more you know God's will and His promises the more you can pray with faith and confidence for Him to do what He has promised.

*"Now, O LORD God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and **do as You have said**. So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel.' And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. **For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.'** Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray **this prayer to You**. And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant. Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; **for You, O Lord GOD, have spoken it**, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever." (2 Sam 7:25-29)*

CHAPTER 7 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What's on your mind after having watched this session?

Read **Deuteronomy 17:14-20**. This passage contains God's instructions for how future kings of Israel were to act. Why do you think God would ask a new king to write out his own copy of the law of Moses? How often was the king told to read the book? How would this benefit him personally, and how would it benefit his people (see vv 19-20)?

How often do you pray? How confident are you that God hears your prayers, and that He will grant you what you are asking? Are your prayers shaped by Scripture in any deliberate way?

Lesson 8 - How should I read the Bible?

Part A

Read the _____ Bible, systematically and regularly.

“If you're running a marathon, remember that every mile is run one step at a time. If you're writing a book, do it one page at a time. If you're trying to master a new language, try it one word at a time. There are 365 days in the average year. Divide any project by 365 and you'll find that no job is all that intimidating. All it takes is discipline - daily discipline, not annual discipline.”

– Charles Swindoll

"ALL Scripture is God-breathed and profitable..." (2 Tim 3:16)

Read your Bible with _____ in view.

"Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures." (Luke 24:44-45)

Read your Bible with _____ that the Holy Spirit will do His work through it.

"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.

But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-29)

Read your Bible _____.

"Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." (Psa 119:17-18)

*"(I make) mention of you **in my prayers**: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe." (Eph 1:16-19a)*

CHAPTER 8 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What's on your mind after having watched this session?

Read **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**. You have probably heard someone say that they don't go to church because they had the Bible "shoved down their throat" as a child? In the light of this objection, do you think parents should teach their children the Bible? And if so, how can this be done wisely and practically?

In this session you heard it said that Biblically illiteracy is a major problem in many churches today? What do you think of this statement? What could some solutions be?

Lesson 9 - How should I read the Bible?

Part B

Interpret what you are reading in its _____.

1. The _____ context of Gods unfolding plan of redemption.

“I gained a clearer understanding of this Big Story principle on a vacation. Most vacations find our family making the ten-hour drive from Dallas, Texas, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to spend time with grandparents. We have grown accustomed to the trip—coffee stop in Wichita Falls, lunch in Amarillo, snack in Tucumcari. The scenery on the drive is intermittently spectacular, and the kids know exactly where I will tell them to drop whatever they are doing to enjoy a mandatory “nature moment.” My husband is a lover of maps, and his faithful recitation of the topographical changes to the landscape is always a hit: “We’re on the southern plains now . . .” “Just entered the Red River Valley . . .” “Here we go up onto the Llano Estacado . . .” “We’re dropping into the Mesalands . . .” The fact that he even knows these details has always been a marvel to me. His high school geography teacher should be basking in the glow of a job well done. And mine should be languishing in obscurity: I didn’t know the topography because I was never taught the topography. So it wasn’t until I had a reason to fly out to Santa Fe that I began to fully appreciate what my husband knew. As we lifted off and turned west, I suddenly realized I was watching the southern plains unfurl beneath me, transected by the Red River Valley, punctuated by the Llano Estacado. I saw the fingers of the Mesalands reaching toward the mountains in the north. I saw from a bird’s-eye view the story I had only appreciated in part, and suddenly all the intermittently spectacular moments of the drive fit together into one continuous and stunning landscape. The perspective I gained on that flight forever changed the way I perceived the drive.”

– **Jen Wilkin**, *Women of the Word*, 51-52

AN OUTLINE OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY:

Creation —> Fall —> Redemption —> Restoration

The major moments under the “REDEMPTION” heading:

- i) The Covenant of Redemption (the plan of the Trinity before time began)
- ii) God’s covenant with Adam
- iii) God’s covenant with Noah
- iv) God’s covenant with Abraham
- v) God’s covenant with Moses
 - i) Joshua enters the land of Canaan
- vi) God’s covenant with David
- vii) The New Covenant through Jesus
- viii) The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- ix) The Return of Jesus

Lesson 10 - How should I read the Bible?

Part C

Interpret what you are reading in its context:

1. The **BIG PICTURE** context of Gods unfolding plan of redemption.
2. The _____ and _____ context of any given **book** that you are reading.

The primary purpose for you to read your Bible is to know _____ more, and in the light of God to know yourself more.

3. The _____ context of what has just been said before, and what is said directly after, the verse you are trying to understand.

“Much is made in evangelical circles of the intention of the writer — the message cannot and should not be turned in a direction totally different from that intended by the writer. In particular, evangelicals object to the practice of interpreting a passage, not in terms of what the author meant to express, but rather of what the reader finds in the passage, or brings to it. This is a most commendable concern. The focus is on what the author intended to affirm.”

- **Millard Erickson**, *Christian Theology*, 260

Let the more clear versus _____ the less clear versus.

Read the Bible _____.

"LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forever." (Psa 131:1-3)

