



What Do We Believe?

Lesson 2

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 2: The Bible: God's Inspired Word

Scriptures:

Psalm 12:6, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, II Timothy 3:16

Lesson Goals:

To help the learner know that God is the origin of the Bible
To demonstrate what inspiration is
To urge the learner to accept the Bible as ultimate truth

Scripture Memory:

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (II Peter 1:21 NIV)

The Lesson:

There is a great collection of books that tell about what people know. It is called an encyclopedia. If you want to know about almost anything, you can look it up in the encyclopedia. Also, if you have a computer, you can write a word or phrase or name into a search engine like Google, and it will list places where you might find information about that subject.

Sometimes we want to know what a word means, so we look it up in a Dictionary. Sometimes we want to know something that happened a long time ago, so we look it up in a history book. Sometimes we want to know someone's telephone number, so we look it up in the telephone book.

God told us about Himself in several ways. Sometimes He spoke personally, like He spoke to Moses in the burning bush. Sometimes He spoke through the message of prophets like He did when Isaiah preached to the people of Israel. He also speaks through a book, which we call the Bible. If we want to know something about God, the best book in which to look is the Bible. The Bible is God's word.

The Bible says that God's word to humans is by inspiration. As it is used in the Bible, inspiration means breathed in or breathed on. God breathed his word to human writers...kind of like he whispered the word. He spoke to the human writers in his quiet voice, a voice heard only by the person He wanted to hear it. The apostle Paul said, "*All scripture is God-breathed...*" (II Timothy 3:16 NIV)

Writers like Moses, David, Jeremiah, Daniel, Matthew, John, and Paul heard God speak to them and wrote down what His quiet voice led them to say. So, now God speaks to us through these writers to let us know what He wants us to know. Moses heard God speak and he told the people of Israel what God said, "*Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the Lord...Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord.*" (Exodus 24:3 – 4a NIV) David said near the end of his life, "*The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.*" (II Samuel 23:2 NIV)

The Bible says, in II Peter 1:21 (NAS), "*for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*" God gave them something to say, and they wrote in ways they understood and that people of their day could understand.

The Bible is our textbook. It is like a book that the teacher gives us to guide our study in school. A math text book helps us understand ways to solve problems. The Bible helps us know about God and about life so that we can solve the problems of life.

The Bible is correct in all that it says about God and God's instruction to us. It is the truth. As one might say in a court room, "It is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

The Bible is made up of 66 books. They are written by 57 different authors: farmers, tentmakers, governors, kings and physicians. The longest is a collection of poems called the Psalms. The shortest is the second letter of John; it has less than 300 words, and can be printed on a half page. The Bible is divided into two parts. The first is the Old Testament which has 39 books and was finished about 400 years before Jesus was born. The second is the New Testament which was written after Jesus died, arose from the dead and ascended into Heaven. The Old Testament gives the background for the New Testament.

The Bible was written in the Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) languages. It has been translated into many, many languages. Even though what we now have are copies of copies, they have been passed down to us with great accuracy and we can trust them.

Many people have tried to keep others from reading the Bible. Many people have died to preserve the Bible for us. God has made sure that the Bible is available, in spite of what people have tried to do. And, since it is God's word, we ought to have great respect for it, learn about it, learn its words, and learn from it.

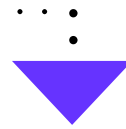
Life Application:

What do you remember about the Bible? Who wrote it? (Many different authors.) How did they know what to write? (They were inspired by God. God whispered to them what to write.) Are there any errors in the Bible? (No. The Bible is truth.) What is the Bible for? It is our textbook for life. It teaches us how God wants us to live.

So, if God "breathed" the very words we have recorded in the Bible and if all of it is truth to teach us how to live, what should we be doing? (Reading the Bible and living by what it says!) What good is it to have a book without error, true through and through, if we don't order our lives by it? Will you choose today to trust God and His Word, the Bible? Will you study it, read it, and live by what it says? One of the things you can read in the Bible says that if you "Say with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.' Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (NIRV). Do you believe that Jesus died in your place, for your sins? Do you believe that God raised Him back to life? Have you put Jesus in control of your life? Will you do that now?



Planning for Lesson 3
The Bible
It Tells Us About God



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Deconstruct the verse. Read the verse, over and over, stressing one word at a time and discussing the meaning of that word. For example: “For **prophecy** never had its origin . . .” What is prophecy? God’s message to the people. Continue, “For prophecy **never** had its origin . . .” Did God’s message ever come simply because a man wanted to tell others the message? No, never. Continue this way, ending with: “For prophecy . . . carried along by the **Holy Spirit.**” How do we know about God’s message or share God’s message? God’s Holy Spirit makes us want to know and share. Finish by repeating the verse again.
- ◆ Sing “The B-I-B-L-E.”
- ◆ Bring the following to class: Encyclopedia, Dictionary, Telephone Directory. Practice finding information. Talk about the importance of this information. Then ask questions whose answers are found in the Bible. Look at 2 Peter 1:3. God has given us what we need to live godly lives.
- ◆ Begin learning the books of the Bible. Make sure your students know how to find book, chapter, and verse. Don’t assume they know this - even if you are teaching adults! Practice with Bible drills.
- ◆ Play a matching game. Provide your students with the names of Bible authors and a list of their professions. Assign a student to read Scripture references that give clues.
- ◆ Adopt a Bible reading plan to encourage your students in daily Bible reading. Hold each other accountable as you meet each week.

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2 Peter 1:21**

Word Search



N	U	G	O	O	D	E	R	A	H	T	R
K	O	O	R	Y	L	I	R	E	G	S	I
D	E	I	E	R	T	H	E	A	R	L	N
T	X	A	T	E	X	T	B	O	O	K	T
E	R	B	I	A	H	O	L	I	S	P	T
X	T	U	I	E	R	E	A	D	A	G	R
B	E	A	E	L	B	I	B	Y	P	I	H
U	T	A	E	R	D	N	P	R	S	I	T
K	V	A	T	Y	L	H	U	S	P	E	U
A	R	X	T	I	O	T	R	O	N	F	R
N	P	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T
E	T	K	Y	X	T	L	O	E	S	L	I

inspiration

textbook

Holy Spirit

read

life

truth

Bible

God

learn

Word Search



N	U	G	O	O	D	E	R	A	H	T	R
K	O	O	R	Y	L	I	R	E	G	S	I
D	E	I	E	R	T	H	E	A	R	L	N
T	X	A	T	E	X	T	B	O	O	K	T
E	R	B	I	A	H	O	L	I	S	P	T
X	T	U	I	E	R	E	A	D	A	G	R
B	E	A	E	L	B	I	B	Y	P	I	H
U	T	A	E	R	D	N	P	R	S	I	T
K	V	A	T	Y	L	H	U	S	P	E	U
A	R	X	T	I	O	T	R	O	N	F	R
N	P	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T
E	T	K	Y	X	T	L	O	E	S	L	I

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