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Your Bible



CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

Your Bible

eighth edition

Adapted by Judy Bartel
from the book *Your Bible*
by L. Jeter Walker



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Springfield, Missouri

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Christian Life Series

Your New Life

Your Bible

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The Church

Personal Evangelism

Bible Ethics

When You Pray

How to Study the Bible

Your Helpful Friend

Christian Worship

Christian Workers

Marriage and the Home

God's Design—Your Choice

John's Gospel

We Believe

What Churches Do

The Teaching Ministry

The Christian in His Community

PREFACE

More Bibles have been bought than any other book in history. However, reading a Bible for the first time can be overwhelming. Where do you start? This book was written to help you learn how to use your Bible. You will also discover why and how the Bible was written.

Believers accept the Bible as the Word of God and believe it is God's personal message to them. Reading your Bible daily can encourage you in your faith and help you be a stronger Christian. The psalmist said it well: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105).

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

Your Bible is one of eighteen courses in this practical discipleship program for new believers. The Christian Life Series is a study to help students grow in their relationship with Christ, interact with the Word of God, and better understand God's purposes for their life.

Students will study basic Christian topics under six reoccurring themes. The courses are conversational in style and easy to read. The following chart illustrates how the units of study are organized for the Christian Life Series.

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Spiritual Life	Your New Life	When You Pray	God's Design, Your Choice
The Bible	Your Bible	How to Study the Bible	John's Gospel
Theology	Who Jesus Is	Your Helpful Friend	We Believe
The Church	The Church	Christian Worship	What Churches Do
Service	Personal Evangelism	Christian Workers	The Teaching Ministry
Christian Ethics	Bible Ethics	Marriage and the Home	The Christian in His Community

Before You Begin

How to Use this Book

This book is divided into lessons instead of chapters. Each lesson begins with two important pages. After the lesson number are the title and a short introduction to the lesson. On the next page is the outline or **The Plan** for the lesson. It is a list of what you can expect to study in the lesson.

Next are lesson goals. **The Goals** are guidelines for what you should be able to do after studying the lesson. Read them carefully; they will help you focus on the most important points in the lesson.

To help you achieve your goals, each lesson has questions and activities. The subheading **Application** signals you to answer questions on the material learned. Do not skip over this part. Writing out the answers will help you apply what you have learned. Most of the questions can be answered right in your book. If there is not enough room to write your answers in the book, write them in a notebook or journal that you can use to review the lessons later.

After answering a question, check the answer at the end of the lesson in the section marked **Check Your Answers**. Do not look ahead at the answers until you have written your own answer. This will help you remember what you study much better. Correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are in a jumbled order so that you will not easily see the answer to the next question.

How to Answer Study Questions

This course uses many different kinds of questions. Below are samples of the three most common types and how to answer them.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE

A multiple-choice question asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
 - b)** 66 books.
 - c)** 27 books.

The correct answer is **b)** 66 books.

In your study guide, make a circle around **b)** as shown here:

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
 - (b)** 66 books.
 - c)** 27 books.
 - d)** 2 books.

TRUE-FALSE

A true-false question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?
- a)** The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - (b)** The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c)** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - (d)** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b)** and **d)** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

MATCHING

A matching question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

...1... **a)** Received the Law at Mt. Sinai 1) Moses

...2... **b)** Led the Israelites across the Jordan 2) Joshua

...2... **c)** Marched around Jericho

...1... **d)** Lived in Pharaoh's court

Phrases **a)** and **d)** refer to Moses, and phrases **b)** and **c)** refer to Joshua. You would write 1 beside **a)** and **d)**, and 2 beside **b)** and **c)**, as you see above.

Suggestions for Studying

1. Set aside quiet and regular times for your study. It will be easier to concentrate if study is part of your daily habits.
2. Pray as you begin each study session. With an open Bible, the Holy Spirit, and this course, you are in the classroom of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you understand the lesson and apply it to your life.
3. Carefully read the lesson introduction, the lesson plan, and the goals.
4. Begin to carefully read the lesson. Look up Bible references and take any notes that may be helpful. The Bible verses reinforce important points in the lesson.
5. Answer the study questions in the spaces provided. Use your notebook or journal when necessary.

6. Think about what you have learned and look for ways to apply it in discussion with family and friends, in a Bible study, or other opportunity.
7. Take your time. No bell will ring to force you to move on to new material.

Unit Evaluations

At the end of this course, you will find the Unit Evaluations. Questions and Answer Sheets are clearly marked for each unit. Carefully follow the directions given. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections. If you are not studying with a Global University office you will still benefit by completing the Unit Evaluations.

Ways to Study this Course

This course has been written so that you can study it by yourself. We like to say that the teacher is in the book. However, you may also study this course in various group settings such as mid-week Bible studies, learning centers, home groups, and youth programs. This course can be used as a correspondence or resource tool for prison ministries as well as special ethnic or other community outreach programs. You will find both the content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

If you study this course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Be sure to use the address of your Global University office. If you are studying in a group or through a Discipleship Training Center, be sure to follow any additional instructions that your instructor may give.

In addition, your church may partner with Global University to open a Discipleship Training Center. Visit us online at www.globaluniversity.edu for more information and start-up helps.

Certificate

Unit or individual certificates are available to students upon successful completion of our courses. For instance, if you are studying through a National Office or Discipleship Training Center, you may receive a certificate from your Global University instructor. If you are studying on your own, you may mail your completed Unit Evaluation Answer Sheets to your local office. National Offices and Discipleship Training Centers may order certificates through the International Office or through Gospel Publishing House in the USA.

Additional Helps

The School for Evangelism and Discipleship (SED) Catalog, Discipleship Training Center Manual, the Study Center Agreement Form, and the SED Order Form are available online for print downloads. Other materials available for this course include supplemental audiocassettes.

Visit us at www.globaluniversity.edu
and www.globalreach.org for additional resources.

About the Author

Louise Jeter Walker gave a lifetime in helping people understand Christian truths. She earned both B.A. and M.A. degrees in Christian education and was an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God (U.S.A.). Her books and materials reflect the experience of over 62 years of missionary service in Peru, Cuba, Central America, the West Indies, and Belgium. She wrote 14 books and other materials for evangelism and Christian education.

Members of the Global University staff have worked with the author in the development of this book and its use of modern methods of independent study. It is a call to study the most important of all books—your Bible!

God bless you as you begin to study *Your Bible*. May your heart be opened to the truths in God's Word.

A stylized globe composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent wireframe spheres in shades of gray, serving as a background for the text.

Unit 1

Lessons

- 1 Benefits of Bible Study**
- 2 The Book God Has Given Us**
- 3 Searching the Bible**
- 4 The Books of the Old Testament**

1 Benefits of Bible Study

Many years ago a ship captain anchored his boat in the harbor of a lovely South Pacific island. He had heard that the people, who were formerly cannibals, were now very friendly and interested in trade.

As the captain talked with the island chief, he noticed a large Bible in the chief's hands. The captain laughed a little and said to the chief, "Surely you don't believe in that old book. It's out of date and no good to anyone."

The chief glanced at the strong warriors who stood around him and then turned to the captain. "Captain," he replied slowly, "you may think this Book is of little benefit. What you don't know is that it is benefiting you. If it were not for this Book that has changed our lives, you would be in our cooking pot right now!"

When you study the Bible, it will affect your life and the lives of others. The captain of this story benefited because someone else had read the Bible and applied its principles. In this lesson, you will learn how to benefit from studying the Bible.

The Plan

- A. Why Study the Bible?
- B. What Are Some Benefits?

The Goals

1. Identify reasons studying the Bible is a privilege.
2. Show how the Bible helps a believer grow.
3. Explain the importance of studying God's Word regularly.
4. List eight benefits of sincere Bible study.

A. WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

There are many reasons everyone should study the Bible. Let us look at three: 1) it is a privilege, 2) it is a way to grow spiritually, and 3) it is a method of learning God's plan for us.

A Privilege

Goal 1. Identify reasons studying the Bible is a privilege.

One day my friends Don and Barb received a special letter containing an invitation to meet Princess Anne of England. Just to have received the letter from someone so important was a privilege, but what the letter offered them was an even greater privilege—the opportunity to meet royalty!

You and I have also received an important letter, a personal message to us from someone much greater than any earthly king—from God himself. Even more important than receiving this letter and being able to read it, is the invitation it gives us. In the letter, which we call the Bible, God invites us to be His children and to live with Him forever. He tells us we can be His children by accepting His Son Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. Isn't it a wonderful privilege to learn about God and His promises through the study of the Bible?

Application

1 Draw a circle around the letter that best completes the statement. One of the greatest privileges a person can have is to receive a personal message from

- a) the president of his or her country.
- b) his or her best friend.
- c) God.

2 Which of the following statements tell us why Bible study is a privilege? Circle the letters of the correct answers.

- a) It is a personal letter from God to each of His children.
- b) God wants to tell you things about yourself and about himself.
- c) Your study guide author says it is; therefore, it is.

Check your answers with those at the end of this lesson.

A Way to Grow

Goal 2. Show how the Bible helps a believer grow.

To be physically healthy and normal, children must eat the right foods essential to that growth. As God's children, we must also grow spiritually. In 2 Peter 3:18, we read, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Our spiritual food is the Bible. As we study it, we get to know our Savior Jesus Christ better. This knowledge helps us become strong Christians "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants" (Ephesians 4:13–14).

Application

- 3** Choose the two answers that best complete this sentence. Studying the Bible helps a believer grow because
- a)** he or she receives spiritual food.
 - b)** he or she learns more about Jesus Christ.
 - c)** the knowledge will make him or her important in the church.
-

Memorize the following verses so you can repeat them as a promise to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. (Psalm 119:12, 15–16)

A Method of Learning God's Plan for Us

Goal 3. Explain the importance of studying God's Word regularly.

A few years ago, a friend of mine was not feeling well. She was sick physically and feeling sad. Then she received a letter from the young man who was to become her husband. He encouraged her and told her he loved her and was coming to marry her. How quickly she recovered after receiving a letter from someone who cared deeply.

The Bible tells us of God's love for us. In it God gives us instructions on how to live, and promises that someday we will live with Him for eternity. If we are sad, sick, or ailing in any other way, we can go to God's personal message and read of His plans for us.

In studying the Bible, we not only learn of God's plans for our future but also of His promises for the present. We will study some of these promises in the next section.

Application

4 (Circle the letter before each correct completion of the sentence.) It is important to learn God’s plan for us because it

- a)** contains His promises for us.
- b)** offers hope and encouragement.
- c)** shows how worthless we are.
- d)** reveals God’s love for us.
- e)** gives direction to our lives.

5 In your notebook, write the verses you learned from Psalm 119. Say them as a prayer, and thank the Lord for His Word.

B. WHAT ARE SOME BENEFITS?

Goal 4. List eight benefits of sincere Bible study.

A benefit is something helpful to you. We will choose eight of the many benefits we receive from Bible study and use the letters of the word *BENEFITS* to help us remember them.

Bread for the soul

Enjoyment

Nearness of God

Encouragement

Foundation

Inspiration

Truth

Security

B—*Bread for the Soul*

The Bible is the food that keeps our souls alive. As we read it daily we receive health and strength for both soul and body. Jesus said, “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

E—*Enjoyment*

Just as we experience joy in reading good news about those we love, we can feel joy in reading the good news of God’s love for us. Even His instructions bring us joy because we know they are for our good. Psalm 119:111 says, “Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.”

N—*Nearness of God*

We feel the nearness of God when we read His Word. He is there and speaks to us personally. This is one of the greatest benefits we could ever imagine.

E—*Encouragement*

God’s Word is full of encouragement for us. He shows us examples of His loving care and promises to take care of us. In the book of Peter is a wonderful verse: “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

F—*Foundation*

A foundation is what something is built on. Jesus said His Word is a safe foundation for what we believe and how we live. Those who do not believe and study the Bible are like a house without a foundation.

I—*Inspiration*

Through His Word, God inspires faith for salvation, hope for our future, and love for others. Inspiration is an influence that leads us to good ideas or actions. Many poets, musicians, and artists have received their inspiration from the Bible. The Bible has given them ideas for creating various art forms.

T—*Truth*

The truth we find in the Bible answers our most important questions, giving us the meaning and purpose of life. It frees us from ignorance and error. “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).

S—*Security*

Security not only means safety; it also means provision for the future. We find real security in God’s Word as it guides us to

safety in Christ and to our eternal home in heaven. God's Word is our sword and shield against sin and Satan—our spiritual weapon—if we study and apply it regularly.

Application

6 In your notebook, write from memory the eight benefits of sincere Bible study we have listed. Can you add others that have come to your mind as you have read your Bible?

7 Write in front of the description on the left the number of the benefit it matches.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| ... a) It is food that strengthens us. | 1) Security |
| ... b) God is always with us. | 2) Truth |
| ... c) God cares for us. | 3) Inspiration |
| ... d) The Bible's good news brings joy. | 4) Foundation |
| ... e) Our lives are built on God's Word. | 5) Encouragement |
| ... f) We are safe now and in the future. | 6) Nearness of God |
| ... g) We receive good ideas and act on them. | 7) Enjoyment |
| ... h) It brings us freedom from error and ignorance. | 8) Bread for the soul |



Check Your Answers

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order, so you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

- 1 c)** God.
- 5** I hope you have memorized these verses and that they will be your prayer many times.
- 2 a)** It is a personal letter from God to each of His children.
b) God wants to tell you things about yourself and about himself.
- 6** Bread for the soul
 Enjoyment
 Nearness of God
 Encouragement
 Foundation
 Inspiration
 Truth
 Security
- (You could add other benefits that have been mentioned in this lesson such as love, hope, spiritual growth, and eternal life.)
- 3 a)** he or she receives spiritual food.
b) he or she learns more about Jesus Christ.
- 7 a)** 8) Bread for the soul
b) 6) Nearness of God
c) 5) Encouragement
d) 7) Enjoyment
e) 4) Foundation
f) 1) Security
g) 3) Inspiration
h) 2) Truth

- 4** **a)** contains His promises for us.
b) offers hope and encouragement.
d) reveals God's love for us.
e) gives direction to our lives.

LESSON 2 The Book God Has Given Us

Have you ever wondered how God gave us the Bible? Was it perhaps put together by angels and left waiting for someone to find it? Or did someone spend his lifetime studying and searching that he might finally give us his philosophies?

God chose to use neither of these avenues to give us His Word. Instead, He used ordinary men from many walks of life and over a span of hundreds of years to give us the Book we call the Bible. The agreement and harmony with which these men wrote stand as a testimony to God, who never changes.

The way the Bible was written is a miracle. Its preservation is another miracle. One of the prophets told how the king took the book of prophecies, threw it into the fire, and burned it. But the Lord told the prophet to take another scroll and write everything again (Jeremiah 36:27–28). God’s Word could not be destroyed.

In this lesson, we will study facts about the Bible—who was used in the writing of it, how one part of the Bible relates to another, and how it all relates to us. As we get better acquainted with the Book, we will appreciate and study it more.

The Plan

- A. Its Origin
- B. Its General Structure
- C. The Relationship of the Testaments
- D. Its Different Translations

The Goals

1. Describe the origin and structure of the Bible.
2. Explain how the New Testament is related to the Old.
3. List at least three differences between the Old Testament and New Testament.
4. Give an example of how the New Testament fulfills the Old Testament.
5. Give one reason we need the Bible in more than one language.
6. State one reason there are different versions of the Bible.
7. State some facts concerning the Apocrypha.

A. ITS ORIGIN

Definition and Divisions

Goal 1. Describe the origin and structure of the Bible.

The Holy Bible is like a small library of sixty-six books that God has given us. We call it the Bible, the Scriptures, or the Word of God.

The word *Bible* means “books.” *Holy* means “something we respect because it belongs to God.” Each of the sixty-six books of the Bible is holy.

Application

- 1 How many books are in the Bible?
 - a) 29
 - b) 39
 - c) 66
 - 2 God's book, the *Holy Bible*,
 - a) is the book of the saints.
 - b) contains two ancient books.
 - c) is from God, and we respect it because it is His.
-

Authors and Inspiration

Goal 2. Explain how the New Testament is related to the Old.

Approximately forty men were divinely inspired to write the Bible. Some of these men wrote more than one book. A few books were not signed by their authors, so we do not know who wrote them.

The term *divinely inspired* means the Holy Spirit gave the authors the thoughts and words God wanted them to write. The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16 that all Scripture is inspired by God. These writers could not have consulted each other about their work because they did not all live at the same time. The first books were written about fifteen hundred years before Christ, and the last were written about one hundred years after Christ. Because these books of the Bible were inspired by God, we call them holy.

Among the authors were kings and fishermen, politicians, military and religious leaders, peasants, merchants, and poets. Even though they came from different places, with various interests and backgrounds, they all wrote about the same theme because God inspired them. This theme is the relationship between God and humanity. Such order throughout all of the books, without contradictions, was possible because the Bible

has only one principal author—God—who spoke through different men.

The following verse is important to memorize:

Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

Application

- 3** Choose the answer that best completes the following sentence. When we say the Bible is the *inspired Word of God*, we mean the Holy Spirit impressed the writers to
- a)** consult with one another about what to write.
 - b)** write the thoughts and words of God.
 - c)** try to decipher the thoughts and ways of God.

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

- 4** How long was it from the time the first book of the Bible was written until the last one was written?
- a)** About 50 years
 - b)** About 500 years
 - c)** About 1,600 years
- 5** Whom did God inspire to write the Bible?
- a)** Forty men who met and worked together
 - b)** Forty priests and prophets
 - c)** Approximately 40 men of different occupations and from different periods of history
- 6** These men wrote on the same theme and did not contradict each other because
- a)** God was the real author, and they were under the control of the Holy Spirit as they wrote.
 - b)** each one left instructions for the following writers.
 - c)** they got extremely lucky.



B. ITS GENERAL STRUCTURE

Goal 3. List at least three differences between the Old Testament and New Testament.

When two people or two nations want to make a special agreement, they can write a *treaty* or a *pact*. Once the treaty is signed, it must not be broken.

The word *testament* means treaty, pact, or covenant. The Bible is divided into two Testaments—the Old and the New. These are the pacts God has made with humankind.

At the front of your Bible is a list of the books of the Old and New Testaments. This list also gives the page numbers where each book begins. The Old Testament is listed first.

The Old Testament was given to the Jews, who were also called Hebrews or Israelites. God chose them to receive His truths, write them, and teach them to others. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew because it was the language of the Jews.

The Old Testament covers the history and terms of God's relationship with humanity, from Creation to the coming of the Savior who would establish a new covenant.

The New Testament gives the history and the conditions of the new covenant, or pact, that God has made with all who accept His Son Jesus Christ as their Savior. The New Testament tells the story of the life of Jesus Christ, and also what He taught.

When the New Testament was written, Greek was a commonly known language. Since this new pact was for all people—not for the Jews alone—the New Testament was written in Greek, thus making it possible for most people to read it.

Application

7 Who were chosen to receive the revelation of God and the covenant we know as the Old Testament?

- a) The Hebrews (Israelites)
- b) The Christians
- c) The Greeks

8 The provisions and conditions of the covenant God has made with those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior are in the

- a) Old Testament.
- b) New Testament.
- c) Minor Prophets

9 (Circle the letter before each correct completion of the following sentence.) The Old Testament is different from the New Testament in that the Old Testament

- a) was written in Hebrew, not in Greek.
- b) contains more books.
- c) was written especially for the Jews.
- d) has authors different from those who wrote the New Testament.
- e) is about a different period in history.

C. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE TESTAMENTS

Goal 4. Give an example of how the New Testament fulfills the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is very important because it reveals God's plan for humanity. But the Old Testament was a temporary pact until Jesus Christ would come to establish the permanent pact. We are now living under the new pact—the New Testament. Therefore, we suggest that you read the New Testament before reading the Old Testament.

The New Testament is based upon the Old Testament. It not only explains the relationship between the two pacts, but it relates the fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies.

For example, the Old Testament book of Micah (chapter 5, verse 2) indicates that the Savior would be born in the Jewish town of Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1, in the New Testament, tells us Jesus the Savior was born in Bethlehem.

Psalm 22:18 in the Old Testament prophesies that men would gamble for and divide the Savior’s garments among themselves. When Jesus was dying on the cross, the soldiers took His clothes. Matthew 27:35 says, “When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.”

There are hundreds of other examples. Special books have been compiled which give all of the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the New Testament.

It is wonderful that a book as ancient as the Old Testament was preserved for so many years. We should be grateful to God’s chosen people who received God’s Word, preserved it, and shared it with other nations.

Application

- 10** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a)** Since the Old Testament was given to the Jews, it is not necessary for us to read it.
 - b)** The New Testament is God’s covenant with His people today, but the Old Testament has important lessons for us too.
 - c)** Both the Old and New Testaments are God’s revelation of His plans for humankind.

11 To whom do we owe special thanks for the Bible?

12 Match the Old Testament prophecies with the New Testament references that tell of their fulfillment. Write the number of the New Testament reference on the dotted line in front of each prophecy.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| ... a) 2 Samuel 7:13—descendant of David, eternal King | 1) Revelation 5:5 |
| ... b) Genesis 49:10—from royal tribe of Judah | 2) Matthew 21:4–5 |
| ... c) Psalm 110:4—priest like Melchizedek | 3) Luke 1:17 |
| ... d) Isaiah 7:14—conceived of a virgin | 4) Matthew 26:15 |
| ... e) Isaiah 40:3—John, His forerunner, crying, “Prepare ye the way.” | 5) Luke 23:50–53 |
| ... f) Isaiah 7:14—His name, Immanuel | 6) Matthew 1:1 |
| ... g) Zechariah 9:9—enters Jerusalem on a donkey | 7) Matthew 1:23 |
| ... h) Zechariah 11:12—sold for 30 pieces of silver | 8) Hebrews 5:6 |
| ... i) Isaiah 53:9—burial in tomb of rich man | 9) Luke 1:31 |

D. ITS DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS

Different Languages

Goal 5. Give one reason we need the Bible in more than one language.

God wants every person to accept Jesus Christ as his or her Savior (see 2 Peter 3:9). Since this is God’s desire, we know He wants everyone to understand His Word. This is why the Old

Testament was written in Hebrew for the Jews, and the New Testament was written in Greek for the larger world population of that time.

Today, since most of us do not understand Hebrew or Greek, we would have a difficult time understanding the Scriptures if they were not translated into our language. This is why we study the Bible, teach it, translate it, and publish it.

There are Bible societies that are always working on new translations. As of 2005, there are approximately seven thousand distinct languages spoken in the world. Complete Bibles exist in 422 of them. The New Testament has been translated into almost eleven hundred languages. Over sixteen hundred other translation projects are in process.

When a new translation is completed, there is much rejoicing because another group of people will be able to read the Scriptures in their own language. There are still thousands of languages into which the Bible has not yet been translated. Let us pray that those who do this work will have strength to continue their great task.

Application

13 (Circle the letter in front of each correct completion to the following sentence.) The world needs many different translations of the Bible because

- a) God wants everyone to understand His Word.
 - b) most people do not read Greek or Hebrew today.
 - c) it is easier to understand something written in one's own language.
-

Different Versions

Goal 6. State one reason there are different versions of the Bible.

Sometimes there is more than one translation of the Bible in a particular language because languages change. When a

translation becomes outdated and a bit difficult to understand, it needs revision. Older words are replaced by newer words—words used in everyday speech.

Making a new version is not an attempt to change the meaning or the teachings of the Bible. All versions—old and new—are the same Bible. The translators have tried to give us the exact meaning that was in the original Greek or Hebrew copies.

The most popular of the English versions for many years was the King James Version. The English, however, is several centuries old and sometimes difficult to understand. Today, many enjoy reading the New International Version. This textbook, *Your Bible*, quotes from the New International Version. Let us compare Philippians 3:1 in both versions of the Bible.

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. (KJV)

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. (NIV)

Some readers find the contemporary language easier to understand, while others still prefer the richness of the old versions.

Application

14 We have many different versions of the Bible in English because translators want to

- a)** make it agree with their own doctrines.
- b)** put it into words that are easier for people to understand.
- c)** make it difficult for translations into other languages.

15 When we talk about a *version* of the Bible, we mean its

- a)** quality of binding.
- b)** translation.
- c)** difficult words.

16 We will probably see more versions of the Bible in our language because

- a) Bible publishers want to make money.
 - b) languages and word meanings may change.
 - c) everyone always wants something new.
-

The Apocrypha

Goal 7. State some facts concerning the Apocrypha.

Catholic versions of the Bible include the Apocrypha, a number of books of doubtful origin. Though these books contain some historical information, especially about the four hundred year period between the Old and New Testaments, not all their historical data are accurate. Because they lack evidence of divine inspiration, they were not accepted as part of the Jewish sacred writings which make up the Old Testament.

The collection of books was named *Apocrypha*, from a Greek word meaning “hidden things.” They were considered as being beyond the ability of the average person to understand and appreciate—whereas Scripture is given for us all to profit by and enjoy. God wants everyone to be saved and “come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

Application

17 The word *apocrypha* means

- a) “hidden things.”
- b) “doubtful.”
- c) “semi-historical.”

18 Most versions of the Bible do not include the Apocrypha because these writings

- a) are too long.
 - b) lack evidence of divine inspiration.
 - c) are difficult to translate.
-

Check Your Answers

- 1 c)** 66.
- 10** Statements b) and c) are true.
- 2 c)** is from God, and we respect it because it is His.
- 11** To God's chosen people.
- 3 b)** write the thoughts and words of God.
- 12 a)** 6) Matthew 1:1
b) 1) Revelation 5:5
c) 8) Hebrews 5:6
d) 9) Luke 1:31
e) 3) Luke 1:17
f) 7) Matthew 1:23.
g) 2) Matthew 21:4
h) 4) Matthew 26:15
i) 5) Luke 23:50–51
- 4 c)** About 1,600 years
- 13** All three reasons are correct.
- 5 c)** Approximately 40 men of different occupations and from different periods of history
- 14 b)** put it into words that are easier for people to understand.
- 6 a)** God was the real author, and they were under the control of the Holy Spirit as they wrote.
- 15 b)** translation.
- 7 a)** The Hebrews (Israelites)
- 16 b)** languages and word meanings may change.
- 8 b)** New Testament.
- 17 a)** "hidden things."
- 9** All of the answers are correct.
- 18 b)** lack evidence of divine inspiration.

LESSON

3

Searching the Bible

No one could find anything in Grandma’s kitchen. The flour was in a can marked “sugar” and the tea was in a box marked “salt.” But this was not much of a problem because Grandma was the only one who worked in her little kitchen.

In the house across the street, however, was a different kitchen. Everything was correctly labeled because the mother was not the only one who worked there. Her husband liked to make his own breakfast, and her daughters often took turns preparing dinner. So there had to be a workable system at mealtime.

Order and structure are necessary for the working of any system, whether household, literary, or otherwise. Thus, the Bible is arranged systematically so we can more easily find its treasures and understand them. Regardless of the translation, our Bibles hold to the same chapters and verses so people do not get lost. Indexes and the table of contents also help direct readers to specific places in the Bible.

The Plan

- A. The Bible Reference
- B. The Study Reference
- C. The Concordance

The Goals

- 1. Know how to identify Bible references.
- 2. Identify the use of study references.
- 3. Describe ways to use a concordance.

A. THE BIBLE REFERENCE

The Basic Language

Goal 1. Know how to identify Bible references.

To help us in our reading and studying, every book of the Bible is divided into chapters. Each chapter is also divided into smaller sections that are numbered on the left side. These are called *verses* or *Bible texts*. We refer to any Bible text by saying the name of the book, then the number of the chapter and the number of the verse. All of these together can be called the *Bible reference*.

Let us look at Genesis, the first book of the Bible. If the version you are using has an introduction, skip that and look for the big number *one* that marks the beginning of the first chapter. The first verse of the chapter—sometimes marked with a small *one*—starts out, “In the beginning.” To refer to that text, we would say, “Genesis one, one.” You will notice the small number marking the verses continuing throughout the chapter.

Now look for the next large number, which is 2. That is the beginning of the second chapter. The first verse begins, “Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.” To refer to that text, we would say, “Genesis two, one.” Chapter two has twenty-five verses.

Skip ahead now to Genesis five, one. It begins, “This is the written account of Adam’s line.” When we give a Bible reference, we do not have to say the words *chapter* and *verse*—just the numbers that refer to them.

What would Genesis 5:1–5 be? You probably said it right, “Genesis five, one through five.” An en dash divides verses from verses and chapters from chapters that occur in sequence. If we are referring to several verses of the same chapter, but the verses are not consecutive, we write them like this: Joshua 1:5, 8, 10. We say, “Joshua one, five, eight, and ten.”

If the texts are in different chapters of a book, we separate the chapter references by a semicolon. For example, Matthew 1:21; 2:1–6 refer to the book of Matthew, chapter one, verse twenty-one and chapter two, verses one through six.

Some books, like 1 Kings and 2 Kings, have the same name and follow consecutively. The writer of John wrote three letters that also bear his name: 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. A reference from one of those books (First John, chapter one, verse nine) could be written as 1 John 1:9.

Application

1 Complete the missing information in the following chart. Write in every blank box.

Reference	How it is said
a) John 3:16	_____
b) _____	Romans six, twenty-three
c) 1 John 1:8–10	_____
d) _____	Romans twelve, fourteen, sixteen, and eighteen
e) _____	Matthew one, one; and five, one through three

2 Matthew 1:1–4 is the reference for the first four verses in Matthew. How many verses are there in each of the following references?

- a)** Genesis 8:18–22 has
- b)** Genesis 8:18, 22 has
- c)** Genesis 8:18–20, 22 has

3 Matthew 1:21; 2:1; and 3:16 speak of

- a)** Jesus, the wise men, John the Baptist, and the disciples.
- b)** Jesus, the wise men, and the Holy Spirit at Jesus’ baptism.
- c)** Jesus, Joseph, and the shepherds.



Finding References

In the front of your Bible is the table of contents—a page that lists every book of the Bible and the page number where each book begins. At first you may need to use this index when you want to find a particular passage of Scripture.

The best way to find Bible references, however, is to memorize the books of the Bible in their proper order. Children learn these quickly, and adults can too. You can learn five or six names each day by repeating them and writing them on cards to carry with you; soon you will have them all committed to memory. You will appreciate being able to turn to any part of the Bible with minimum effort.

Application

4 Look up each reference on the left and match it with the correct verse on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ... a) Philippians 4:19 | 1) “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” |
| ... b) 1 John 1:8 | 2) “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” |
| ... c) Joshua 1:9 | 3) “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.” |
| ... d) Psalm 23:1 | 4) “My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” |

B. THE STUDY REFERENCE


Goal 2. Identify the use of study references.

Some Bibles have study references down the center, in side margins, at the bottom of each page, or after each verse. These are sometimes called cross references or marginal references, and they help you find other related verses.

A tiny letter by certain words in a Bible verse tells you to look for the same letter in the reference area. By that letter you will find a Scripture reference which will lead to a related verse. If you have a study Bible, you can use this system to develop interesting studies on the topics you are reading.

The references and other comments in your Bible are helpful, but they are not divinely inspired. They were given by Bible teachers and scholars to help us use and understand our Bibles more easily.

Application

- 5** The tiny letters by certain words in the Bible refer to
- special chapter divisions.
 - a different alphabet.
 - study references.
- 6** Marginal or cross references (study references) help you find other
- Bible verses on the same subject.
 - books to read on the subject.
 - authors of the Bible.
-
- 

C. THE CONCORDANCE

Goal 3. Describe ways to use a concordance.

A concordance is an alphabetical index of some principal words in the Bible. This index gives the references in the Bible where a particular word is used. At the present time, most listings in a concordance are references to the *King James Version* of the Bible. However, we hope that the suggestions given here for using a concordance will be of help to you.

There are several instances when you may wish to use a concordance. Let us say that you wish to read several verses that contain the word *love*. Look up the word in your concordance. The references are listed, together with a few words from each Bible verse that uses the word *love*.

A concordance can also be of help when you wish to know where in the Bible to find a particular verse. Perhaps you know all of the verse, or only a part of it, but you do not know the reference. Choose a key word from the words you remember of the verse, and look up that word. It is possible that you will find among the references listed one with a phrase from the verse you are seeking.

For example, suppose you want to find in the Bible the verse that says “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” Perhaps the only words of the verse you remember are “money

is the root of all evil.” Notice that there are three key words that you can look up: *money*, *root*, and *evil*. The key word is usually identified in the concordance by only the first letter of the word. If you look up the word *money*, you will probably find something that looks like this:

Matthew 25:18 hid his master’s *m*.

Mark 12:41 crowd putting their *m*. into the temple treasury.


1 Timothy 6:10 love of *m*. is a root of all kinds of evil.

If you do not find in the concordance the Bible reference you are looking for, by looking under the word *money*, proceed to look up the other key words.

The verse just cited, 1 Timothy 6:10, is often misquoted. An additional advantage, then, of using a concordance is that it enables us to discover errors such as this.

Does your Bible have marginal references and a concordance? These are important helps for teachers, preachers, and others who want to work for God. Perhaps you do not plan to be a preacher or teacher; you can still learn many new things if you will use your study references and a concordance.

Application

- 7** Which two statements below are TRUE?
- a)** A concordance is an index of the principal words of the Bible.
 - b)** A concordance is only for preachers and teachers.
 - c)** If you can remember only one or two words of a verse you want to find, you can probably find it using a concordance.
 - d)** A concordance and a marginal reference are the same thing.
-
- 

Check Your Answers

- 1** a) John three, sixteen
b) Romans 6:23
c) First John one, eight through ten
d) Romans 12:14, 16, 18
e) Matthew 1:1; 5:1–3
- 5** c) study references.
- 2** a) five verses.
b) two verses.
c) four verses.
- 6** a) Bible verses on the same subject.
- 3** b) Jesus, the wise men, and the Holy Spirit at Jesus' baptism.
- 7** Statements a) and c) are true.
- 4** a) 4) "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."
b) 2) "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."
c) 1) "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
d) 3) "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want."

LESSON

4 The Books of the Old Testament

“Reading the Old Testament is like reading any other ancient history book,” commented a young man who had just joined our Bible study group. After he had read and studied some of the Old Testament, however, he changed his mind.

Although the Old Testament contains some history, such as Creation and stories of the Jewish nation, there is much more. Sometimes a story is repeated or told from another viewpoint. Prophecies have been carefully recorded, some with their fulfillment and others yet to take place. The books also contain love stories, poems, songs, and proverbs in rich variety.

We can count on history books to tell us about their heroes, but the Old Testament includes the common folk of their day. These stories are no less important, for they give us a clear picture of God’s dealings with His people.

The books of the Old Testament can be divided into five major themes. In Lesson 3, we learned about the smaller divisions of the books—the chapters and verses. Now we will look at the major divisions or classifications.

The Plan

- A. Organizing the Classifications
- B. Explaining the Classifications

The Goals

1. Identify the major classifications of the Old Testament.
2. Name and identify the five books of the Law.
3. State general facts about the content of each of the historical books.
4. Give a distinguishing characteristic of each poetical book.
5. State the general theme of each of the Major Prophets.
6. Name one distinguishing characteristic of each Minor Prophet.

A. ORGANIZING THE CLASSIFICATIONS

Goal 1. Identify the major classifications of the Old Testament.

The following simple sketch of a hand helps us remember the major classifications of the Old Testament.



The thirty-nine books of the Old testament are grouped as follows:

Law	5 books
History	12 books
Poetry	5 books
Major Prophets	5 books
Minor Prophets	12 books

The table of contents in the front of your Bible lists the books of the Old Testament. They may be classified as follows, but if not, the following chart will be a helpful guide.

LAW	HISTORY	POETRY	MAJOR PROPHETS	MINOR PROPHETS
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations	Amos
Numbers	1 and 2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	1 and 2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Daniel	Jonah
	1 and 2 Chronicles			Micah
	Ezra			Nahum
	Nehemiah			Habakkuk
	Esther			Zephaniah
				Haggai
				Zechariah
				Malachi

Perhaps you have wondered why the prophets are designated as being either major or minor. The classification has little to do with content, as all the books are important. The

major prophetic books (with the exception of Lamentations) are longer; the minor books are shorter.

Application

1 Organize the following classification titles into their proper order. Put the number *1* in front of the title that belongs to the first classification, *2* in front of the second, and so forth.

- ... **a)** Major Prophets
- ... **b)** Law
- ... **c)** Poetry
- ... **d)** Minor Prophets
- ... **e)** History

2 How many books are in each of the following classifications?

- Law
- Minor Prophets



B. EXPLAINING THE CLASSIFICATIONS

The Law

Goal 2. Name and identify the five books of the Law.

The first five books of the Bible are known as the books of the Law or the Books of Moses. They are also called the Pentateuch, which means “five books.” The Pentateuch was written by Moses, the great leader and liberator of the Jewish people.

Genesis means “beginning” or “origin.” The book of *Genesis* tells of the Creation, the origin of humankind, the Flood, and the call of Abraham.

Exodus means “going out.” This book tells how God led His people out of slavery, opening the Red Sea before them and providing for their needs. The book of Exodus contains the Ten Commandments and laws for the nation.

Leviticus takes its name from Levi, the priestly tribe. This book gives instruction for the priests and the offering of sacrifices—looking forward to Christ who would become the sin offering for the whole world.

Numbers records the numbering of the people. Recording the census was important to the young nation about to possess the land that was promised to their father Abraham.

Deuteronomy means “second law.” The book contains further instructions for God’s people, Moses’ farewell address, and his commission to Joshua who would assume leadership after Moses’ death.

The Pentateuch highlights God’s dealings with humanity for an estimated period of twenty-five hundred years. It lays the foundation for the story of redemption.

Application

3 Memorize the names of the five books of the Law. Then, without looking at the list, write the names of these books.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

4 Read the description on the left, and write in front of each the number of the book title it matches.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| ... a) Freedom from slavery | 1) Genesis |
| ... b) Rules for Jewish priests | 2) Exodus |
| ... c) Creation of humankind | 3) Leviticus |
| ... d) Census recorded | 4) Numbers |
| ... e) Moses' farewell | 5) Deuteronomy |

5 (Circle the letter of each correct completion to the following sentence.) The first five books of the Bible include

- a)** rules for God's people.
- b)** 2,500 years of Greek history.
- c)** the Ten Commandments.
- d)** instructions for the Levites.

History

Goal 3. State general facts about the content of each of the historical books.

The twelve books of History give the history of the Jewish nation. They tell of God's dealings with individuals and with the nation as a whole.

Joshua, the general who led the Hebrew people after the death of Moses, went on to conquer the land of Canaan. The book of Joshua is about that conquest.

There were, however, a number of small kingdoms and cities that tried to fight back. *Judges* covers four hundred years of defeats and victories in Canaan: defeat when the people forgot God, victory when they repented and God raised up judges as deliverers.

The book of *Ruth* tells of a dedicated girl from the land of Moab who lived in the time of the judges. She became the great-grandmother of David and one of the ancestors of Jesus.

First and Second Samuel take their names from Samuel, the last of the judges. He was also a priest, prophet, educator, and statesman who played an important role in his nation becoming an established kingdom.

First and Second Kings and First and Second Chronicles continue the nation's history and tell how it became divided into the kingdoms of Judah and Israel. The Chronicles also contain genealogies important to the Hebrew people.

God used *Ezra*, a priest, and *Nehemiah*, a cupbearer, to lead the Hebrews back home after their captivity in Babylon. These two men helped rebuild the nation. God also inspired Ezra to write and to gather the sacred books that made up the Old Testament. He had copies made of the Scriptures so the people could read them.

The book of *Esther* tells how God used a beautiful Jewish girl to save her people from being massacred during the captivity.

The historical books add up to about a third of the Old Testament. Put a slip of paper before the book of Joshua and another one after the book of Esther. Practice finding each book as quickly as you can. Perhaps a friend will select names at random for you and time you.

Application

6 Read the description on the left, and write in front of each the number of the book title it matches.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ... a) Saved the Hebrews from being killed | 1) Joshua
2) Judges |
| ... b) King David's ancestor | 3) Ruth
4) 1 and 2 Samuel |
| ... c) 400 years of defeats and victories | 5) 1 and 2 Kings,
1 and 2 Chronicles |
| ... d) The priest who had copies made of Scripture | 6) Ezra
7) Nehemiah |
| ... e) The prince who led the Hebrews out of Babylon | 8) Esther |
| ... f) The general who conquered Canaan | |
| ... g) The beginning of the kingdom of Israel | |
| ... h) The history of Judah and Israel | |

7 The second classification of Old Testament books is called "Historical Books" because it tells the history of

- a)** Moab and Babylon.
- b)** Canaan and Egypt.
- c)** Judah and Israel.

8 The last three historical books that tell of God's protection over the Hebrews during their captivity and return from Babylon are

- a)** Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.
- b)** 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings.
- c)** Joshua, Judges, Ruth.

- 9 We remember Ezra for his important role in
- a) getting together the books of the Old Testament that existed then.
 - b) writing the Pentateuch or the five books of the Law.
 - c) preventing Nehemiah from working.
- 10 Compare the first five chapters of 1 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles. Which book gives more genealogies or records of families with their ancestors?
- a) 1 Kings
 - b) 1 Chronicles
 - c) 2 Chronicles
-

Poetry

Goal 4. Give a distinguishing characteristic of each poetical book.

Many of the books of the Bible contain poetical passages. Five books, however, are grouped under the books of Poetry.

Job is a dramatic poem about the sufferings and eventual reward of a righteous man. This book is believed to be the oldest in the Bible.

Psalms is the hymnbook and prayer book of the Bible. These poems were collected and used by the people of Israel in their worship. Though David and other leaders wrote many of the Psalms, a number of them are of unknown origin.

Solomon, a son of David and the third king of Israel, was the wisest man who ever lived. He wrote and compiled *Proverbs* to teach young people how to live successfully. *Proverbs* is one of the “books of wisdom.”

Ecclesiastes is Solomon’s testimony of how empty life is without God. Pleasures, riches, accomplishments, and power cannot satisfy. Humanity was created to serve God.

Song of Solomon is like an opera, a dramatic song. It tells of the love between bride and groom and symbolizes God's love for His people.

Hebrew poetry often differs from other poetry in both style and structure. Through this poetry we see God's heart toward His people and their response to Him.

Application

11 Write in front of each description, the number of the book title that it matches.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ... a) God loving His people like a groom
loves his bride | 1) Job
2) Psalms
3) Proverbs |
| ... b) Hebrew hymn book | 4) Ecclesiastes |
| ... c) Teaching young people how to live | 5) Song of
Solomon |
| ... d) Why the righteous suffer | |
| ... e) Life's emptiness without God | |

Major Prophets

Goal 5. State the general theme of each of the Major Prophets.

When God wanted to communicate directly with His people, He often used chosen men known as prophets. These prophets proclaimed God's message either by the spoken or written word.

The books in this classification are called Major Prophets because of the length of the books, the long ministry, and great influence of these prophets.

Isaiah was both a prince in Israel and a great prophet who lived during the time that Babylon was establishing its empire. He foretold the captivity of the Hebrew nation, but also brought a message of hope. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born,

Isaiah foretold Jesus' virgin birth, His death for our sins, and His resurrection.

Jeremiah also wrote about the Babylonian captivity and told that the Jews would return to their homeland after seventy years. Cyrus' decree allowing the Jews to go back to Palestine came just as Jeremiah had predicted (see Jeremiah 25:11).

Jeremiah saw many prophecies fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem. He describes this in five mournful poems called *Lamentations*.

Ezekiel was one of the major prophets of the exile. He prophesied to the Hebrews during their seventy years of captivity in Babylon.

Daniel, a captive Hebrew prince, became the prime minister of the Babylonian empire. His accurate predictions of the rise and fall of empires are amazing. Many of them have already been fulfilled, and some are being fulfilled in our lifetime.

Application

12 Which major prophet lived seven hundred years before Christ and predicted many details that were fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

- a) Isaiah
- b) Jeremiah
- c) Daniel

13 Although poetical, a book telling about the destruction of Jerusalem is not grouped with the other books of poetry. Which book is it?

- a) Proverbs
- b) Ecclesiastes
- c) Lamentations

14 The prophets who were captives in Babylon and preached to the Hebrews in exile were

- a) Isaiah and Jeremiah.
- b) Ezekiel and Daniel.
- c) Jeremiah and Lamentations.

15 The name of the captive prince who became prime minister was

- a) Isaiah.
- b) Jeremiah.
- c) Daniel.

16 Match the prophecy on the left to the prophet who gave it.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| ... a) The virgin birth of Christ | 1) Jeremiah |
| ... b) Rise and fall of empires | 2) Isaiah |
| ... c) Seventy years of Babylonian captivity | 3) Daniel |

Minor Prophets

Goal 6. Name one distinguishing characteristic of each Minor Prophet.

The twelve books of the Minor Prophets together do not equal in length the book of Isaiah. But these men loved God and valiantly proclaimed His message to people who were often indifferent or rebellious toward God. The first nine of these prophets lived before the captivity; the others lived after the Jews' return to their homeland. Each book bears its author's name.

Hosea preached of God's love for His people as that of a husband for an unfaithful wife. Hosea illustrated it by forgiving his own unfaithful wife.

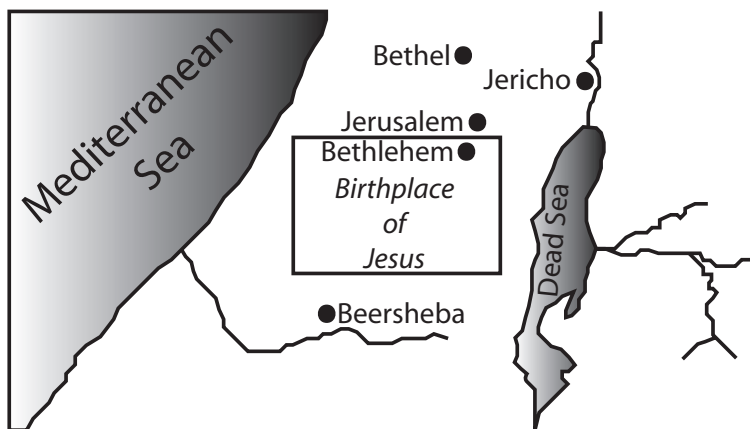
Joel prophesied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and in the charismatic revival of these last days.

Amos was a shepherd whom God sent to the capital of Israel to preach against social injustice. He warned the people of coming judgment against sin.

Obadiah prophesied of judgment against the country of Edom. Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. We know very little about the prophet himself.

God sent *Jonah* as a missionary to Nineveh, but Jonah tried to run away by sailing to another city. After being swallowed by a big fish, he repented, was delivered, and then obeyed God.

Micah lived at the same time as Isaiah and Hosea. He prophesied destruction of the Hebrew nation, but also gave hope for their future. He spoke of the Savior and even mentioned the town where Jesus would be born (see Micah 5:2).



Nahum prophesied the destruction of Nineveh, the great city that had repented under Jonah's preaching. But when the people turned again to their wickedness, God said He would destroy the city.

Habakkuk and *Zephaniah* warned of national defeat and captivity if the people did not repent. The people clung to their sins and entered Babylon as captives.

After the return from Babylon to Palestine, God used *Haggai* and *Zechariah* to encourage the rebuilding of the temple.

Malachi, the last of the Old Testament prophets, lived four hundred years before the birth of Jesus Christ. Read in Malachi 3:8–12 his message on tithing.

So ends the record of God's dealing with His people under the old covenant while they waited for the coming of Christ and His new pact.

Application

17 Read the characteristic on the left, and write in front of each the number of the prophet it matches.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| ... a) Judgment on Edom | 1) Hosea |
| ... b) Preached to Nineveh | 2) Joel |
| ... c) Love of God | 3) Amos |
| ... d) Social injustice | 4) Obadiah |
| ... e) The Holy Spirit | 5) Jonah and Nahum |
| ... f) Christ's birthplace | 6) Micah |
| ... g) Message on tithing | 7) Habakkuk and Zephaniah |
| ... h) National defeat and captivity | 8) Haggai and Zechariah |
| ... i) Rebuilding of temple | 9) Malachi |

Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the Unit One Evaluation. Review the previous lessons, then follow the directions on the Unit One Answer Sheet. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections.

Check Your Answers

- 1** a) 4
b) 1
c) 3
d) 5
e) 2
- 10** b) 1 Chronicles
- 2** five
twelve
- 11** a) 5) Song of Solomon
b) 2) Psalms
c) 3) Proverbs
d) 1) Job
e) 4) Ecclesiastes
- 3** a) Genesis
b) Exodus
c) Leviticus
d) Numbers
e) Deuteronomy
- 12** a) Isaiah
- 4** a) 2) Exodus
b) 3) Leviticus
c) 1) Genesis
d) 4) Numbers
e) 5) +Deuteronomy
- 13** c) Lamentations
- 5** a) rules for God's people.
c) the Ten Commandments.
d) instructions for the Levites.
- 14** b) Ezekiel and Daniel.

- 6 a)** 8) Esther
 - b)** 3) Ruth
 - c)** 2) Judges
 - d)** 6) Ezra
 - e)** 7) Nehemiah
 - f)** 1) Joshua
 - g)** 4) 1 and 2 Samuel
 - h)** 5) 1 and 2 Kings; 1 and 2 Chronicles
- 15 c)** Daniel.
- 7 c)** Judah and Israel.
- 16 a)** 2) Isaiah
- b)** 3) Daniel
 - c)** 1) Jeremiah
- 8 a)** Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.
- 17 a)** 4) Obadiah
- b)** 5) Jonah and Nahum
 - c)** 1) Hosea
 - d)** 3) Amos
 - e)** 2) Joel
 - f)** 6) Micah
 - g)** 9) Malachi
 - h)** 7) Habakkuk and Zephaniah
 - i)** 8) Haggai and Zechariah
- 9 a)** getting together the books of the Old Testament that existed then.



Lessons

5 The Books of the New Testament

6 How We Know the Bible Is the Word of God

LESSON 5 The Books of the New Testament

At the time the New Testament was being written, the Old Testament picture had changed very much. The days of the prophets were gone, and many people were indifferent to spiritual things. Like the rest of the Near East and Europe, the Jewish nation came under Roman rule. Though it was a difficult time for the Jewish people and they longed for freedom, outside influence did offer some benefits. A strong Roman army saw to it that roads were safe for commerce, and increased travel allowed Greek culture with its music and art to spread throughout the empire.

It was not by chance that God sent His Son to the world at this time. The Greeks furnished a common language for communicating the gospel and the Romans gave reasonable protection and liberties for evangelism.

The New Testament is the story of the life of Christ and the beginning of Christianity. The New Testament books contain instructions and promises for all believers, prophecies concerning the future, and the hope of eternal life with Christ. Read these books to learn their truths firsthand.

The Plan

- A. Organizing the Classifications
- B. Explaining the Classifications

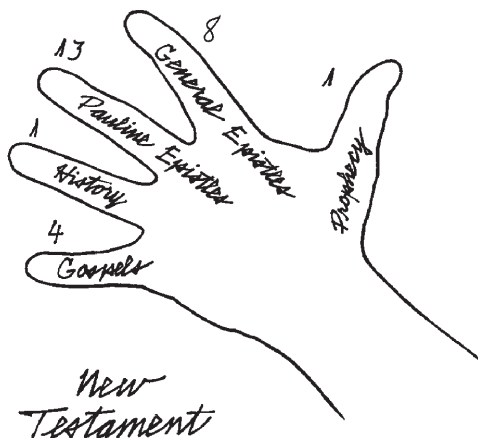
The Goals

1. List the major classifications of the New Testament.
2. Describe the different emphasis each Gospel places on Christ.
3. State the key message of Acts.
4. Give reasons the Epistles are important.
5. State one fact about the main teaching of each author of the general Epistles.
6. Describe some of the content and values of the book of Revelation.

A. ORGANIZING THE CLASSIFICATIONS

Goal 1. List the major classifications of the New Testament.

In Lesson 4, we learned that the Old Testament has five major classifications. The New Testament also has five classifications. It is easy to remember them using the same method we used with the Old Testament.



The New Testament has twenty-seven books, as follows:

GOSPELS	HISTORY	GENERAL EPISTLES	PAULINE EPISTLES	PROPHECY
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2, & 3 John Jude	Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Revelation

Application

1 Which one of the classifications below is seen in both the Old and New Testaments?

- History
- Pauline Epistles
- Prophecy
- Gospels
- General Epistles

B. EXPLAINING THE CLASSIFICATIONS

The Gospels

Goal 2. Describe the different emphasis each Gospel places on Christ.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote the life of Christ in the Gospels that bear their names. These writers are sometimes called the *Four Evangelists*. Each has a different focus or emphasis.

Matthew presents Jesus as King, or Messiah. Quoting the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah (the name the Jews

gave to their expected king or deliverer), Matthew shows how Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures.

Mark wrote to the Romans, most of whom did not know the Scriptures. He filled his gospel with dynamic action as he showed his readers that Jesus came as the Servant of God.

Luke, a physician, wrote his Gospel for a Greek friend. He emphasized Christ's perfect manhood, presenting Him as the Son of Man.

John gives evidence to show that Jesus is the Son of God and that those who believe on Him have eternal life.

The first three Gospels are called "synoptic" as they give a synopsis or a complete view of Jesus' life. They are similar in their choice of events to relate. John, however, does not emphasize the history of Jesus as much as His sayings and teachings.

Application

2 The Gospel that quotes many prophecies to show Jesus is the promised King is

- a) Matthew.
- b) Mark.
- c) Luke.

3 In Luke 1:1–4, Luke says he based his writing on

- a) rumor or hearsay.
- b) personal experience as a disciple.
- c) careful investigation and talking to eyewitnesses.

4 Mark filled his Gospel with

- a) prophecies from the Old Testament.
- b) sermons of Jesus.
- c) the dynamic action in Jesus' work.

5 In John 20:30–31, John explains that he wrote so his readers would believe in Jesus as the

- a) perfect man and follow His example.
- b) Son of God, and have everlasting life in Him.
- c) best man who ever lived.

- 6** Luke's main emphasis about Jesus was that He was the
- a)** Son of Man.
 - b)** Messiah of the Jews.
 - c)** Son of God.

History

Goal 3. State the key message of Acts.

Luke wrote the *Acts of the Apostles* to tell how Christ sent the Holy Spirit to continued His work on earth after Christ went back to heaven.

Apostle means “sent” or “one who is sent.” Acts tells how the *sent ones* of the Lord took the gospel to their world.

One of the main persons in the book of Acts is Paul. He was the apostle to the Gentiles. Gentiles were people who were not Jews. Luke went with Paul on some trips and tells of their exciting missionary adventures. He tells of how the Holy Spirit used Paul to start the Christian church in many countries.

The key text is Acts 1:8. Every Christian should memorize it: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Application

- 7** The title *Acts of the Apostles* means acts of the
- a)** successors.
 - b)** sent ones.
 - c)** representatives.

8 (Fill in the blanks to complete the following statement.)

The physician named accompanied Paul on his missionary journeys to the

- 9 The key message of Acts is that
- a) Paul would convert all the Gentiles.
 - b) Luke would be a missionary doctor.
 - c) the Holy Spirit would give power to witness.

Pauline Epistles

Goal 4. Give reasons the Epistles are important.

The thirteen Pauline Epistles are letters Paul wrote, some of them to churches he had founded. The book of Hebrews was not signed, so we cannot say definitely that Paul wrote it. Most scholars do not feel he did, so we are not including Hebrews in the list of Paul's Epistles.

Romans	1 and 2 Thessalonians
1 and 2 Corinthians	1 and 2 Timothy
Galatians	Titus
Ephesians	Philemon
Philippians	
Colossians	

Since there were no printing presses, the Epistles were passed from church to church. It is possible that at each place the members made a copy to keep and study.

Romans has been called “the cathedral of Christian doctrine” because of its clear, powerful explanation of salvation. Justification by faith is its theme.

Paul wrote *1 and 2 Corinthians* to the church he had founded in Corinth. These letters addressed problems of doctrine and conduct in the church.

The next Epistle, *Galatians*, has the same theme as *Romans*—justification by faith. It emphasizes that no one can save himself or herself by good works, only by faith in Jesus Christ.

While Paul was in jail for preaching the gospel, he wrote *Ephesians*, *Philippians*, and *Colossians*. These Epistles, called “prison Epistles,” are about living the Christian life.

Both letters to the *Thessalonians* tell what will happen just before Jesus returns from heaven. You can read about His return in 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.

Four of Paul’s Epistles are to individuals. The two letters to *Timothy* and the one to *Titus* are especially helpful to pastors. Just before Paul gave his life for the cause of Christ, he wrote his last letter to Timothy, charging him to be faithful in God’s work. Read 2 Timothy 4:5–8.

Onesimus, Philemon’s runaway slave, was saved while he was in jail with Paul. Paul wrote asking *Philemon* to forgive Onesimus and receive him as a brother in Christ.

Application

10 The word *Epistle* means

- a) doctrine.
- b) letter.
- c) copied.

11 The main theme of each Epistle is listed on the left. Write in front of each, the number of the book or books it matches.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ... a) Living the Christian life | 1) Romans and Galatians |
| ... b) Justification by faith | 2) Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians |
| ... c) Jesus return from heaven | 3) 1 and 2 Thessalonians |
| ... d) Forgiveness for a slave | 4) 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus |
| ... e) How a pastor should work | 5) Philemon |

12 (Circle the letter before the correct completions to the following sentence.) The Pauline Epistles are important because they

- a) give advice to believers.
 - b) tell us how to be saved.
 - c) tell how the prophets lived.
 - d) give clear teaching on doctrine.
 - e) were all written in prisons.
 - f) tell pastors and churches how to work.
-

General Epistles

Goal 5. State one fact about the main teaching of each author of the general Epistles.

The Pauline Epistles carry the names of the persons to whom they are addressed, but the general Epistles go by the names of the ones who wrote them. Since Hebrews was an unnamed book, early editors assumed the audience was the Hebrew people. The early church then adopted the name *Hebrews* for this epistle.

Even though Hebrews has been included in the New Testament from the days of the early church, scholars today are somewhat divided on who actually wrote the epistle. Authorship has been traditionally ascribed either to Paul or Barnabas—both of whom were capable of providing this material. Although we are not certain of the authorship, no question should exist as to the book’s divine inspiration and usefulness for the body of Christ.

The key word of *Hebrews* is “better.” This letter to Hebrew Christians reminded them that the new covenant is better than the old. Hebrews shows how the symbolic rites and sacrifices under the Law were pictures of Jesus, who became our high priest and the supreme sacrifice for our sins.

James, author of the book that bears his name, was pastor of the church in Jerusalem. This James was also probably

the brother of Jesus. James, John’s brother, had already been beheaded.

James teaches that living faith in Christ will produce good works. Our works do not save us. But if we are saved, we are expected to do what we can for God and His people.

Peter’s letters of encouragement for suffering Christians remind them that the Lord will come back someday and reward them for their faithfulness.

John, the beloved disciple, lived the longest of the twelve. He wrote a gospel and three Epistles bearing his name. The theme of God’s love that makes us love one another carries through all his writings. He also wrote *Revelation*, the book that reveals Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jude, the last Epistle, was written by a brother of James and probably a brother of Jesus. He warns the reader against false teachings and speaks of Jesus’ return to judge the world.

Application

13 What is the theme of each of the Epistles listed below?

James

.....

1 and 2 Peter

.....

1, 2, and 3 John

.....

Jude

.....

Hebrews



Prophecy

Goal 6. Describe some of the content and values of the book of Revelation.

The book of Revelation is also called the Apocalypse because it unveils the future. Its symbolic visions are similar to those in the book of Daniel. John, the author, was an old man in exile on the island of Patmos when he was given visions of the last days of this age, of heaven, and of the coming kingdom of God.

Though John had known Jesus when He carried out His earthly ministry, he saw Jesus again as the mighty conqueror. John saw Jesus as the one who holds all authority (Revelation 1:18).

As the revelation of Christ changed Patmos into the doorway of heaven for John, it also brings light into our darkness, joy into our lives, and hope into a chaotic world.

Application

14 (Circle the letters before the correct completions to the following statement.) In the revelation on Patmos,

- a) the future was made known.
- b) John could see no ray of hope.
- c) John saw visions of the last days.

15 Two books that are very similar in their symbolic pictures of world conflicts, the rule of the Antichrist, and the final triumph of Christ are

- a) Isaiah and 1 Peter.
- b) Daniel and Revelation.
- c) Ezekiel and Revelation.

16 Read Revelation chapters 1 and 21–22. How do you feel when you read these chapters? Are you thrilled to think that Christ will be coming back soon? Is John's prayer in 22:20 yours? Pray that God will help you remember this as you live and work for Him.



Check Your Answers

- 1** History
- 9 c)** the Holy Spirit would give power to witness.
- 2 a)** Matthew.
- 10 b)** letter.
- 3 c)** careful investigation and talking to eyewitnesses.
- 11 a)** 2. Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians
b) 1. Romans and Galatians
c) 3. 1 and 2 Thessalonians
d) 5. Philemon
e) 4. 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus
- 4 c)** the dynamic action in Jesus' work.
- 12 a)** give advice to believers.
b) tell us how to be saved.
d) give clear teaching on doctrine.
f) tell pastors and churches how to work.
- 5 b)** Son of God, and have everlasting life in Him.
- 13** Check your answers by referring back to the discussion about each book.
- 6 a)** Son of Man.
- 14 a)** the future was made known.
c) John saw visions of the last days.
- 7 b)** sent ones.
- 15 b)** Daniel and Revelation.
- 8** Luke, Gentiles.
- 16** Your answers

6 Bible Is the Word of God

How do you know the Bible is true? This question is not new. Humanity's first temptation began with an attack on God's Word. The devil, in the form of a serpent, challenged Eve, "Did God really say. . . ?" (Genesis 3:1). Today, the devil presents similar doubts.

But God's Word is our defense against the devil. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, Jesus' defense against the enemy was the Word. We also use the Word to help others who are assailed with doubts and fears. And we use God's Word to guide those who sincerely question and seek after God. Peter advises, "In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

In the last two lessons, we learned about the content of the books of the Bible. Now let us discuss why we believe the Bible to be God's Word.

The Plan

- A. Effects of Scripture
- B. Variety and Unity of Scripture
- C. Inerrancy of Scripture
- D. Discoveries About Scripture
- E. Excellence in Scripture
- F. Name of Author in Scripture
- G. Completion of Prophecy in Scripture
- H. Elimination of Alternatives in Scripture
- I. Survival of Scripture

The Goals

1. Show how fulfilled promises of the Scripture are an evidence that the Bible is of God.
2. Describe how the concepts of variety and unity can be applied to Scripture.
3. Identify two evidences that show the inerrancy of Scripture.
4. Explain how students of various sciences are realizing the accuracy of the Bible.
5. Show examples of moral excellence in literary Scripture.
6. Give examples of internal evidence that God is the ultimate author of the Bible.
7. Identify one way prophecies were given, and state conditions under which they are to be judged.
8. State reasons for believing the Bible is inspired by God.
9. Identify time factors that confirm the Bible's authenticity.

The word *evidence* means “something which proves or shows clearly that a thing is true or false.” We will study nine of the many evidences that prove the Bible to be the true Word

of God. To help us remember these evidences, we will use an acrostic from the letters of the word *EVIDENCES*.

Effects

Variety and Unity

Inerrancy

Discoveries

Excellence

Name of Author

Completion of Prophecy

Elimination of Alternatives

Survival

A. EFFECTS OF SCRIPTURE

Goal 1. Show how fulfilled promises of the Scripture are an evidence that the Bible is of God.

The supernatural effects of the Bible are evidences of its supernatural origin. The fulfillment of its promises proves that these are true and authentic. Miraculous healings, deliverance from drugs and alcoholism, the transformation of lives, and millions of answers to prayer are all evidence that God made the promises in the Bible.

Application

1 A survey showed that over two generations, Christians had more family unity and economic stability than non-Christians. On the basis of that evidence, complete the following statement. The effect of the Bible as it changes lives for the better verifies that the Bible is

- a)** God's Book through which He works.
 - b)** a clever fraud that deceives people.
 - c)** a book of advanced psychology.
-

B. VARIETY AND UNITY OF SCRIPTURE

Goal 2. Describe how the concepts of variety and unity can be applied to Scripture.

Imagine forty men writing the Bible: doctors of law and medicine, fishermen, kings, farmers, poets, soldiers, businessmen, and shepherds. They wrote over a period of sixteen hundred years—Moses wrote the Law fifteen hundred years before Christ; John wrote Revelation one hundred years after the birth of Christ. It would seem that the various backgrounds and the wide range of time and location of the biblical authors would prevent unity or harmony in their books. But the unity of theme and harmony of teaching by such a variety of writers is evidence that they received their inspiration from the same source—God.

Application

- 2** (Circle the correct completions to the following sentence.)
The words *variety* and *unity* can be applied to Scripture because
- a) the Book was inspired by one person, God.
 - b) it is important to vary the theme and unity.
 - c) a variety of writers wrote on a unified theme.
 - d) men of different backgrounds often think exactly the same.
-

C. INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE

Goal 3. Identify two evidences that show the inerrancy of Scripture.

The Bible's *inerrancy*, or freedom from mistakes, includes its historical accuracy in events, people, places, genealogies, social customs, and political developments.

Textbooks have to be changed as knowledge increases and mistaken ideas are discarded. But not the Bible. Its writers were exposed to the mistaken beliefs popular during their times, but God kept them from putting any of these errors in

the Bible. He kept it free from error, and its advice is practical today. Although no two persons think identically, God also kept these writers from contradicting each other as they presented different phases of their theme.

Writers of secular history may purposely hide the guilt of their leaders or their nations. But the Bible is impartial and accurate, showing facts as they were. The Bible records not only the uprightness of a people, but their failure and sin as well. The Bible is written that we may learn from the mistakes of others. Since the Bible does not try to hide anything, its inerrancy shines through.

Application

- 3** As Hebrew history, the Bible records the sins and punishment of the Hebrew nation and of its heroes. This is
- a)** characteristic of histories because nations want to hear the truth of their failures.
 - b)** evidence of the Bible's inerrancy and shows that it was written from God's viewpoint.
 - c)** only to show the Hebrew nation deserved to be punished.
- 4** One evidence of inerrancy in the Bible is that the writers
- a)** included the popular beliefs of their time.
 - b)** consulted other writings to avoid mistakes.
 - c)** were kept by God from writing contradictions.



D. DISCOVERIES ABOUT SCRIPTURE

Goal 4. Explain how students of various sciences are realizing the accuracy of the Bible.

Archaeology, the science that studies ancient cultures, has discovered manuscripts and monuments which prove biblical records are true.

For instance, Sargon, mentioned in Isaiah 20:1, was thought of as a legend by critics of the Bible. But his palace was discovered

by a French archaeologist in 1843. Isaiah 20:1 tells the story of Sargon conquering Ashdod, the Philistine city. This very story was found painted on one of the walls of Sargon's palace!

Scoffers can no longer laugh at historical accounts in the Bible because too many of them have been proven through archaeological discoveries.

Philology is the science of languages. By assessing language—the way words are used and spelled—philologists have verified that Bible prophecies were predicted before the events took place. One example found in the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in the 1940's, gave positive proof that the prophecies about the captivity were written before it happened.

Other sciences are also discovering how true the Bible is. Men exploring for oil have based their findings on biblical history; medical doctors have learned from the health laws given to the Jewish people. Hearing of more discoveries in the future would not surprise believers because the Bible is God's Word. We know it does not need to be proven, but for the doubter there is ample evidence of its authenticity.

Application


5 (Circle the letter that best completes the following sentence.)

The authenticity of the Bible has been further confirmed by archaeologists and philologists through their

- a)** debates.
- b)** speculations.
- c)** scientific discoveries.

6 For years philologists thought that all languages of the world stemmed from four basic languages. Later the number was reduced to two. Their latest conclusion should not surprise you. On the basis of Genesis 11:1, what do you think they discovered?

.....



E. EXCELLENCE IN SCRIPTURE

Goal 5. Show examples of moral excellence in literary Scripture.


A book that is inspired by an all-wise, holy, and loving God should *excel* all other books in its moral teaching. The Bible does. The simple expression of its stories invites children to read it. At the same time brilliant scholars cannot fully comprehend the depths of its truths. If you read the Bible hundreds of times, you will still find something new to appreciate—something you never saw before. God continues to speak to you through His Book.

The laws Moses received from God were far superior to any others of that day. In the centuries that have followed, many countries have based their statutes on those given so long ago.

The Bible's literary excellence has been recognized by scholars in universities. The teachings of its proverbs, the uplifting of its psalms, and the honesty of its history are still reaching people today and being used as examples of what good literature should contain.

The excellence of the Bible, so superior to anything else produced, also leads us to believe that its concepts are from God.

Application

- 7** Which qualities point to the excellence of Scripture?
- a)** Superior moral teaching
 - b)** Precise word definitions
 - c)** Relevance to all intellectual levels
 - d)** Fine leather binding
 - e)** Laws that are applicable today
 - f)** Literary excellence
-
- 

F. NAME OF AUTHOR IN SCRIPTURE

Goal 6. Give examples of internal evidence that God is the ultimate author of the Bible.

The Bible names God as its author and tells how He inspired it. Second Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

Application

8 Which Scriptures indicate that God is the author of the Bible? Look up each one in your Bible.

- a) Exodus 24:12
 - b) Deuteronomy 5:31
 - c) Malachi 4:4
 - d) 2 Timothy 3:16
 - e) Revelation 1:1
-

G. COMPLETION OF PROPHECY IN SCRIPTURE

Goal 7. Identify one way prophecies were given, and state conditions under which they are to be judged.

As in a moving picture, the prophets of the Bible described the rise and fall of empires, the destruction and rebuilding of Jerusalem, and other future events. The things they saw and wrote down were prophecies, or the telling of what would happen in the future. The completion or fulfillment of the prophecies points to their inspiration.

But it is more than just fulfillment that proves a prophecy is inspired of God. The Bible prophets were devout men of God. Many of the prophecies for people were warnings of punishment for their bad ways but also promises that if they changed, they would not be punished. All their prophecies came true. Bible prophecies are evidence that the Bible is the inspired

Word of God, not only because they came true but because they always pointed people to a closer relationship with God.

Application

9 Read Obadiah 1:1; Micah 1:1; Nahum 1:1; and Habakkuk 1:1; 2:2. The authors say their prophecies came to them through a

- a) strong impression.
- b) vision that God showed them of the future.
- c) study of the world conditions and probable events.

10 Read Matthew 1:22; 2:4–6, 16–18; 4:12–16; 8:16–17; Isaiah 53; Acts 2:14–21, 31; 3:18. There are certain conditions that prophecies should fulfill if we are to consider them inspired of God. Which of the following statements should be TRUE if the prophecy is from God?

- a) The prophet should charge money to tell the future.
 - b) A prophecy should come true.
 - c) The prophet should be a devout, godly person.
 - d) The prophecy must be consistent with God's character.
 - e) The prophecy should move people to seek God.
-

H. ELIMINATION OF ALTERNATIVES IN SCRIPTURE

Goal 8. State reasons for believing the Bible is inspired by God.

There are three possibilities, or alternatives, in deciding what the writers of the Bible were like:

1. Men writing their own ideas
2. Men inspired by Satan who told lies
3. Men inspired by God to share the truth

First, the Bible could not have come from self-deluded minds, for its wisdom and inerrancy indicate superior,

nonhuman thought. Furthermore, sinful men would not willingly have condemned their own sin and promoted the concept of a holy, unseen God who imposes His standards on humanity.

Second, the Bible combats evil, condemns Satan, and predicts his final failure and punishment. Satan could not have inspired the writing of the Bible because he would not promote good and condemn evil as the Bible does.

Also, the impossibility of humanity's foreseeing the future accurately makes us rule out self-proclaimed prophets without supernatural inspiration. The accurate fulfillment of Bible prophecy eliminates the possibility of either good, bad, or deluded men promoting their own ideas.

By the logical process of the elimination of alternatives, we arrive at the conclusion that men inspired by God were most likely the writers of the Bible.

Application

11 Which statements are TRUE of why we believe the Bible to be God-inspired?

- a)** Deluded men would not condemn sin and promote holiness.
 - b)** Accurate fulfillment of Bible prophecy indicates supernatural inspiration.
 - c)** Satan would not inspire writers to condemn him.
-

I. SURVIVAL OF SCRIPTURE

Goal 9. Identify time factors that confirm the Bible's authenticity.

The Bible's survival shows God's care for His Word. Parts of the Bible are at least thirty-five hundred years old. The newest parts are over nineteen hundred years old.

Time is the worst enemy of most books. They become out-of-date and old-fashioned, lose their popularity, and then

disappear. Not so with the Bible. The fact that the Bible, as old as it is, has the solution for twenty-first century problems is one evidence that the Bible is truly God's Word. It has stood the test of time.

Famous French writer Voltaire (1694–1778) predicted that within one hundred years his words would be read everywhere and the Bible would be found only in museums. But the Bible is read more widely now than ever.

No book has been copied, translated, and printed more carefully than the Bible. In ancient times, before there were printing presses, the copier had to throw away the entire page and begin again if he made one mistake. Today, scholars work on every translation and printing to make sure it is accurate and free from error.

Some kings have tried to destroy every Bible in their countries and have sentenced its readers to death. Critics have attacked it savagely. But the Bible outlives its enemies. First Peter 1:24–25 affirms, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.”

Application

12 Which statements are indications that the Bible has stood the test of time?

- a)** It is applicable to us today.
- b)** It has been a bestseller over hundreds of years.
- c)** It is often leather-bound.
- d)** It could never be destroyed.



Check Your Answers

- 1 a)** God's Book through which He works.
- 8** Each of these Scriptures show God is the author.
- 2 a)** the Book was inspired by one person, God.
c) a variety of writers wrote on a unified theme.
- 9 b)** vision that God showed them of the future.
- 3 b)** evidence of the Bible's inerrancy and shows that it was written from God's viewpoint.
- 4 c)** were kept by God from writing contradictions.
- 10** Statements b), c), d), and e) are true.
- 5 c)** scientific discoveries.
- 11** All the statements are true.
- 6** That at first all the people of the world had one language.
- 12 a)** It is applicable to us today.
b) It has been a best seller for hundreds of years.
d) It could never be destroyed.
- 7 a)** Superior moral teaching
c) Relevance to all intellectual levels
e) Laws that are applicable today
f) Literary excellence

CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We hope that it has been a great help to you. Remember to complete the second Unit Evaluation and return the answer sheet to your instructor.

CL2120 Your Bible**UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET**

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name

Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address

.....

.....

Country

Directions

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

Example

- 1** To be born again means to
a) be young in age.
b) accept Jesus as Savior.
c) start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space **(B)** like this:

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 11 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 12 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 13 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 14 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 5 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 15 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 6 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 16 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 7 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 17 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 8 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 18 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 9 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 19 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 10 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 20 (A) (B) (C) (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. For grading, return your Unit One Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area. Continue your study in Unit Two.

For GU Office Use Only

Date

Score

UNIT ONE EVALUATION

- 1** Studying the Bible is a privilege mostly because
 - a)** not many people have copies of it.
 - b)** it is God's personal letter to us.
 - c)** its literary style is unsurpassed.

- 2** In order to grow spiritually, a believer in Christ must
 - a)** read the Bible.
 - b)** learn the original languages of the Bible.
 - c)** be in church all day.

- 3** Those who put their trust in God's Word will
 - a)** crumble in the time of testing.
 - b)** have to look elsewhere when tested.
 - c)** stand firm during times of testing.

- 4** The most important thing about the Bible is that it shares
 - a)** stimulating ideas.
 - b)** a historical record.
 - c)** God's plan for us.

- 5** To learn eternal truths, the Christian must look to
 - a)** God's Word.
 - b)** great books.
 - c)** his or her culture or tradition.

- 6** The term *Holy Bible* means that
 - a)** half of its books are inspired by God and without error.
 - b)** most of its books are holy.
 - c)** each of its 66 books is holy.

- 7** About how many men did God use to write the Bible?
 - a)** 14
 - b)** 40
 - c)** 66

- 8** The New Testament was written
 - a)** before Jesus came to earth.
 - b)** during Jesus' stay on earth.
 - c)** after Jesus returned to heaven.

9 The relationship of the New Testament to the Old Testament is that the

- a)** New does away with the Old.
- b)** New fulfills the Old.
- c)** New is a continuation of the Old.

10 To understand the Bible, it is best to read it in

- a)** its original languages.
- b)** one's own language.
- c)** Latin.

11 Which statement is TRUE?

- a)** All versions of the Bible have the exact same words in them.
- b)** The various versions of the Bible have different meanings.
- c)** The new versions of the Bible are written in modern language.

12 Why are the books of the Apocrypha not accepted as part of the Old Testament?

- a)** They are written in Greek.
- b)** They lack evidence of divine inspiration.
- c)** They are too difficult to understand.

13 The first fourteen verses of the first chapter of the Gospel of John would be written as,

- a)** 1 John 14.
- b)** 14 John 1:1.
- c)** John 1:1–14.

14 Study references and concordances are

- a)** included in many Bibles.
- b)** primarily for pastors and teachers.
- c)** inspired additions to the Bible text.

15 The Psalms and the Proverbs are in which category of the Old Testament?

- a)** Poetry
- b)** History
- c)** Prophecy

16 Which book in the Old Testament tells us how humans first sinned?

- a) Deuteronomy
- b) Exodus
- c) Genesis

17 Which books tell about the first king in Israel?

- a) 1 and 2 Samuel
- b) 1 and 2 Kings
- c) 1 and 2 Chronicles

18 The book of Ecclesiastes is classified as

- a) Poetry.
- b) Prophecy.
- c) History.

19 The prophet who also served as a prime minister was

- a) Isaiah.
- b) Daniel.
- c) Ezekiel.

20 A prophet who lived after the Jews' return to their homeland was

- a) Hosea.
- b) Micah.
- c) Haggai.

CL2120 Your Bible**UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET**

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name

Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address

.....

.....

Country

Directions

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

Example

- 1** To be born again means to
a) be young in age.
b) accept Jesus as Savior.
c) start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space **(B)** like this:

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 11 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 12 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 13 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 14 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 5 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 15 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 6 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 16 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 7 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 17 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
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| 9 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 19 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 10 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 20 (A) (B) (C) (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit Two. For grading, return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area.

For GU Office Use Only

Date

Score

UNIT TWO EVALUATION

- 1** How many books are in the New Testament?
 - a)** 27
 - b)** 39
 - c)** 66

- 2** The General Epistles were written by
 - a)** 3 authors.
 - b)** only Paul.
 - c)** at least 4 authors.

- 3** Which of the Gospel writers was a doctor?
 - a)** Matthew
 - b)** Mark
 - c)** Luke

- 4** The emphasis of the Gospel of Mark is on
 - a)** eternal life.
 - b)** Christ the King.
 - c)** the Servant of God.

- 5** Which Gospel writer wrote the book of Acts?
 - a)** Mark
 - b)** Luke
 - c)** John

- 6** The key text of Acts has to do with
 - a)** power given by the Holy Spirit to witness.
 - b)** faith in Jesus Christ leading to salvation.
 - c)** the mission of the church to reach the needy.

- 7** Paul taught that we are saved by
 - a)** good deeds.
 - b)** grace through faith.
 - c)** long prayers.

- 8** Who wrote the books of Titus and Philemon?
 - a)** John
 - b)** Luke
 - c)** Paul

- 9** The *Prison Epistles* are
- a)** Galatians, Ephesians, and Thessalonians.
 - b)** Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.
 - c)** Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.
- 10** The Epistle that has the same theme as Romans is
- a)** Ephesians.
 - b)** Galatians.
 - c)** Philippians.
- 11** The Epistle that teaches good works as a result of faith is
- a)** James.
 - b)** 1 Peter.
 - c)** Jude.
- 12** The focus of Peter's Epistles is on
- a)** Christ's judgment of the world.
 - b)** good works that accompany faith.
 - c)** the suffering of Christians.
- 13** The book of Revelation is classified as
- a)** mystery.
 - b)** prophecy.
 - c)** allegory.
- 14** The power of the Bible to transform lives is
- a)** similar to the effects of positive thinking.
 - b)** evidence of its supernatural origin in God.
 - c)** something shared by all the major religions.
- 15** We can know the Bible was inspired by God because it
- a)** was written so long ago.
 - b)** is made up of 66 books.
 - c)** agrees throughout, even though it was written by different people.
- 16** The inerrancy of the Bible is seen in its
- a)** exclusion of mistaken beliefs.
 - b)** exclusion of the sins of leaders.
 - c)** inclusion of contradicting views.

17 The truth of the Bible is supported by the science called philology, which deals with

- a)** patterns of thought.
- b)** systems of belief.
- c)** the use of words.

18 The fact that some governments base their laws on Scripture is an indication

- a)** that all governments are outdated.
- b)** of the moral excellence in Scripture.
- c)** that Scripture is inferior.

19 Which is internal evidence of the author of the Bible?

- a)** The composition of Bible words with words used in secular literature
- b)** The findings of archaeology
- c)** The claims made within the Bible itself

20 Which of the following is true of biblical prophecies?

- a)** The fulfillment of Bible prophecies points to their inspiration.
- b)** Biblical prophecies served no other purpose but to condemn sin.
- c)** Bible prophecies never came true.

FINAL WORDS

Dear Student,

We hope this study has made you think about your relationship with God. After studying the lessons and answering all the questions, have you wondered, “Am I really a Christian? Do I know God? Is He real in my life?” We want to give you the opportunity now to have a relationship with God.

We have all done wrong things. We have hurt ourselves and others. The Bible calls that sin and we are all guilty: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Our sin keeps us from knowing God as a loving Father. But God loves us in spite of our sin. He loves us so much He sent His Son to die for us. “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). When He died, Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sins.

Do you want to make sure Jesus is your Savior? It is really so simple:

- Admit that you are a needy sinner separated from God, and ask Him to forgive you.
- Believe in Jesus with all your heart, and let Him know you accept Him as your Savior.

You can talk to God in your own words by saying a prayer like this:

Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me. I believe You are the eternal Son of God. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. Come into my life. Make yourself real in my life. Be Lord of my life today. Thank You for saving me.

If you prayed this prayer and meant it with all your heart, your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. Jesus is Lord of your life. The Bible says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Welcome to the family of God. We want to rejoice with you, so please write and tell us what God has done in your life. Blessings to you!

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Name

Do you have a friend who needs to know more about Jesus?

Send us your friend's name and address for answers to the great questions of life.

Name

Address

.....

WOULD YOU LIKE TO...
KNOW HOW THE BIBLE CAN HELP YOU?
KNOW WHY AND HOW IT WAS WRITTEN?
KNOW HOW IT WAS INSPIRED?

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