



Session #1 – The Bible: An Instruction Manual

True or False:

Please answer the following True or False questions based on what you believe about the Bible.

- 1) T ___ F ___ The Bible is the inspired and infallible (without error) Word of God.
- 2) T ___ F ___ The Bible was written by men but inspired by God.
- 3) T ___ F ___ The Bible we have today contains many errors introduced throughout the centuries.
- 4) T ___ F ___ Original copies of the Bible have been found and are preserved in museums.
- 5) T ___ F ___ The 66 books included in the Bible were chosen arbitrarily by a council of men.
- 6) T ___ F ___ The Bible may be read without the guidance of a trained minister.
- 7) T ___ F ___ The Bible was originally written in Latin.
- 8) T ___ F ___ The Bible was not meant to be taken literally.
- 9) T ___ F ___ The Bible should be interpreted and applied based on current cultural standards.
- 10) T ___ F ___ The Bible is the only book you need in order to know God and walk with Him.
- 11) T ___ F ___ God continues to reveal new things about Himself outside of the Bible.
- 12) T ___ F ___ All English translations of the Bible are equally reliable and accurate translations.

Facts About the Bible

- 1) The Bible was written in three different languages over the course of about 1500 years.
- 2) The Bible was written by more than 40 different authors on three continents.
- 3) There are over 25,000 biblical manuscripts in existence ranging from tiny scraps to complete books. New Testament manuscripts date back to the 2nd century (between 100-200 AD) and Old Testament manuscripts date back as far as the 7th century BC.
- 4) The Dead Sea Scrolls, found between 1947 and 1956, contain almost every Old Testament book and date back to the 3rd century BC.
- 5) The Bible contains 66 books in all: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
- 6) The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic. The New Testament was originally written in Greek.
- 7) The word 'testament' means covenant or agreement.
 - a. Old Agreement (based on the Law) – "If you obey My laws, I will bless you and dwell among you."
 - b. New Agreement (based on grace) – "If you believe on my Son, you will receive the free gift of eternal life in My presence."
- 8) Jesus Christ is the central theme of Scripture. The Old Testament is the account of a nation founded and nurtured to bring forth the Man, Jesus Christ.



Importance of the Bible

1) Common Incorrect Views of the Bible

- a. _____ – A good storybook of unrelated stories for children
 - i. None of that stuff really happened
 - ii. It should begin with "Once upon a time..." instead of "In the beginning..."
- b. _____ and _____
 - i. List of do's and don'ts that no longer apply today
 - ii. Not relevant to our modern culture
- c. _____ or a ' _____ '
 - i. Dust it off when company comes over (especially a pastor)
 - ii. It can't really be understood without proper guidance

2) Correct Views of the Bible

- a. It's a _____
 - i. Factual history of the Jewish people and the early church
 - a. 'Accounts' not 'stories' (**Psalm 119:160**)
 - ii. Archeologically proven
 - 1. New finds continue to support Scripture
 - 2. Even finds from other cultures testify to Biblical history
 - iii. Scientifically accurate
 - 1. Earth is round (**Isaiah 40:22**)
 - 2. Water cycle (**Job 36:27-28**)
 - 3. Life in blood (**Leviticus 17:11**)
- b. It's _____ and _____
 - i. It's a _____
 - 1. It gives specific directions for following the right path in life (**Hebrews 12:13, Joshua 1:8, and Proverbs 2:9**)
 - 2. It helps put things into perspective by giving us an overall picture of the past, present, and future
 - ii. It's an _____
 - 1. It provides detailed instructions on how to live (**2 Timothy 3:16**)
 - 2. It was written by the Manufacturer Himself (**2 Timothy 3:16a**)
 - 3. It includes real-life illustrations and warning labels (**Proverbs 13:13**)
 - 4. It is relevant for today (**Psalm 119:160 and Hebrews 4:12**)



- iii. It's a _____
 - 1. It provides security and comfort in darkness (**Proverbs 6:23**)
 - 2. It helps us see our way clearly (**Psalms 119:105 and 130**)
- iv. It's a _____
 - 1. It reveals God's infinite, intimate, and unconditional love for us (**John 3:16 and Romans 8:38-39**)
 - 2. He calls us His bride and encourages faithfulness to Him (**Eph. 5:25-27**)
- v. It's _____ for your _____
 - 1. It provides _____ (**Deuteronomy 8:3**)
 - a. Jesus quotes this verse to Satan when tempted in the wilderness
 - 2. It provides _____ (**1 Peter 2:2**)
 - 3. It encourages _____ (**Hebrews 5:14 and Eph. 4:14-15**)

3) Why Should We Read the Bible

- a. To _____
 - i. His Word reveals His attributes and character
 - ii. Every book in the Bible gives us a glimpse of Christ
- b. To Know How to _____
 - i. To know how to make decisions and be happy, joyful, peaceful, etc.
- c. To _____ (**Psalms 119:11**)
- d. For _____ (**Hebrews 4:12 and Ephesians 4:14**)
- e. For _____ (**Romans 10:17 and John 20:31**)
- f. For _____ (**1 Peter 2:2 and Ephesians 4:14-15**)
- g. To Be _____ for _____ (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)
 - i. Good works include the following:
 - 1. _____ to the lost (**2 Timothy 4:2 and 1 Peter 3:15**)
 - 2. _____ one another (**Hebrews 12:12**)
 - 3. _____ one another (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**)
 - 4. _____ and _____ (**1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 3:16, Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Timothy 4:6**)



Basic Structure of the Bible

1) Old Testament

- a. _____ (Pentateuch) - *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*
- b. _____ - *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*
- c. _____ - *Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon*
- d. _____ Prophets - *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel*
- e. _____ Prophets - *Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*

2) New Testament

- a. _____ - *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*
- b. _____ - *Acts*
- c. _____ (Letters) - *Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2, Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude*
 - i. Most of the letters were written during the events of Acts
- d. _____ - *Revelation*

How to Read and Study the Bible

- 1) _____ for Guidance and Understanding (**Psalm 119:18, Psalm 119:27 and Proverbs 8:17**)
- 2) Resolve to _____ God's Word (**Psalm 119:59-60 and John 14:21**)
- 3) Make a _____
 - a. Set aside a regular time to read and commit to it
 - b. Some ideas to get you started
 - i. Daily Bible reading or devotional
 - ii. Research a relevant topic
 - iii. Start at the beginning
 - iv. Look up the verses below concerning Scripture
 - c. Some tips for studying
 - i. It's okay to write in your Bible
 - ii. Commentaries may help, but the Bible is its own best commentary
 - iii. Pay attention to context and audience



4) Commit Verses to _____ (**Psalm 119:11**)

- a. Memorize chapter and verse location for key verses
- b. Meditate on key verses continually (**Joshua 1:8**)

Verses about Scripture

Practice finding verses in your Bible by looking up the following verses concerning Scripture. Write the verse or a summary of the verse in the space provided.

Isaiah 40:8 - _____

1 Peter 2:2-3 - _____

Psalm 119:105 - _____

Romans 10:17 - _____

John 20:31 - _____

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - _____

Psalm 119:11 - _____

Psalm 119:160 - _____

Hebrews 4:12 - _____

Proverbs 30:5 - _____

Psalm 18:30 - _____

Luke 21:33 - _____

1 Peter 1:24-25 - _____

Joshua 1:8 - _____

Psalm 119:130 - _____

Proverbs 2:9-11 - _____

Jeremiah 15:16 - _____

2 Timothy 3:14-15 - _____

Proverbs 6:23 - _____