

# THE BIBLE

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CALIFORNIA-WIDE  
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**CALIFORNIA-WIDE**  
**SUMMER SCHOOL OF TRUTH 2021**

**THE BIBLE**  
Group Time Packet

**June 12-26, 2021**

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SUMMER SCHOOL OF TRUTH 2021

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All scripture reading verses are quoted from *The Recovery Version of the Bible* unless otherwise indicated. *The Recovery Version of the Bible* is published by Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, CA.

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# The Bible—The Word of God

## Lesson 1: The Bible

### Lesson Focus

If we really want to know and experience God, we must be balanced. God gave us the Spirit within, as well as the Bible without to lead us and guide us into the experience and riches of Him.

The entire Bible originates from God; every word and every sentence, every iota and every title, are God-inspired.

### Key Verses

**2 Tim. 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

**2 Pet. 1:20-21**

**20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of one's own interpretation

**21** for no prophecy was ever borne by the will of man, but men spoke from God while being borne by the Holy Spirit.

### Outline

- I. The Spirit within and the Bible without must be balanced
- II. The origin of the Bible
  - A. The Bible being God-breathed
  - B. The Bible being the speaking from God by men borne by the Holy Spirit
- III. To experience God, we must exercise our spirit and enjoy the Word of God

### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 1*

- The Spirit Within and the Bible Without Must Be Balanced
- The Origin of the Bible (including A and B)
- The Bible Being the Embodiment of God the Spirit

### Questions for Fellowship

1. Pray-read 2 Timothy 3:16 for 1 minute.
2. Why do we need to be balanced by the Spirit within and the Bible without? What happens if we are not balanced in this way?
3. Briefly state the origin of the Bible.
4. How can we connect to and experience God, who is Spirit?

## The Bible—The Word of God

### Lesson 2: The Functions of the Bible

#### Lesson Focus

The Bible as a book is not limited to having a single function, rather it has multiple functions. Through the Bible we can know God, receive God, be nourished and supplied by God, and become a man of God.

#### Key Verses

**John 5:39** You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me.

**2 Tim. 3:15-17**

**15** And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

#### Outline

- I. Testifying concerning the Lord Jesus
- II. Making men wise unto salvation
- III. Causing men to be regenerated
- IV. Being the believers' spiritual milk
- V. Being the believers' bread of life
- VI. Making the believers complete

#### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 1*

- The Functions of the Bible (including A to F)

#### Questions for Fellowship

1. Without the Bible is there a way for us to know the Lord Jesus and be saved?
2. Provide some experiential examples for how the Bible can be our spiritual milk and bread of life.
3. Explain how the Bible can make us, the believers, complete.
4. Memorize John 5:39 and recite it to the members of your group.

## The Bible—The Word of God

### Lesson 3: The Writing of the Bible

#### Lesson Focus

God used over forty men over a period of about 1600 years to write the Bible. Only the present 66 books are recognized as the Word of God.

The subject of the Bible is contained in only four sentences: God planned and created, Satan rebelled and damaged, man fell and was lost, and Christ redeemed and built.

The central thought of the Bible is Christ and the church. The Bible not only reveals Christ Himself; it also reveals the bride and the Body of Christ, which is the church.

#### Key Verses

##### Eph. 3:9-11

**9** And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things, **10** In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church, **11** According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Eph. 5:32** This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

#### Outline

- I. The writing of the Bible
- II. The subject of the Bible
- III. The central thought of the Bible

#### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 3*

- The Subject of the Bible
- The Central Thought of the Bible

#### Questions for Fellowship

1. Use your Recovery Version to look up the names and details of the authors of the following books: Leviticus, Proverbs, Lamentations, Job, 1 Kings, Acts, Ephesians, and Revelations.
2. Memorize the four sentences that describe the subject of the Bible.
3. Give examples and a verse to support the statement: The central thought of the Bible is Christ and the church.

## The Bible—The Word of God

### Lesson 4: The Proof of the Bible Being the Word of God (1)

#### Lesson Focus

There are objective proofs unique to the Bible that are not seen with any other books. The Bible (the book) is the book of books, a book that is the truth, is factual, accurate and trustworthy.

#### Key Verses

**Col. 1:5b** ...Of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.

#### Outline

- I. The proof by logic
- II. The proof by its completion
- III. The proof by its prophecies
- IV. The proof by its power
- V. The proof by people's love for the Bible
- VI. The scientific proof

#### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 5*

- Text
- The Proof of logic (including A to D)
- The Proof by Its Completion (The Writers section)
- The Proof by Its Prophecies (first three paragraphs)
- The Proof by Its Power (including A to C)
- Summary

#### Questions for Fellowship

1. Break your group into different people and have everyone try to write a story about surviving the pandemic (2-3 sentences each; everyone should try to write a different part of the story without knowing what the others are writing). Then try to put it together into a logical story. Imagine how difficult it would be for persons who don't know each other to write a logical book over a period of 1600 years!
2. Discuss some of the prophecies in the Bible that have and have not yet occurred such as in Matthew 24.
3. Look up the verses that speak to the earth being round and to revolving around the sun and try to explain it to one another to prove that the earth was not flat and that the sun did not revolve around the earth. How does it make you feel knowing the Bible confirmed science long before science realized it was "wrong."?

## The Bible—The Word of God

### Lesson 5: The Proof of the Bible Being the Word of God (2)

#### Lesson Focus

In this lesson, as a continuation of Lesson 4, we see more objective proofs that the Bible is the Word of God.

The proof provided in these two lessons increases our faith in and appreciation for the Bible. The Lord and His lovers suffered much to preserve the Bible for thousands of years so that we, the lovers of the Lord, may have this great gift. We need to treasure the Bible and study it as the most precious thing we have.

#### Key Verses

##### **1 Pet. 1:24-25a**

**24** All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass has withered, and the flower has fallen off, **25** But the word of the Lord abides forever.

#### Outline

- I. The proof by the history of the Jewish people
- II. The proof by its indestructibility
- III. The proof by its spread during persecution
- IV. The proof by the word of the Lord and other writers of the Bible
- V. The proof by ancient documents
- VI. The proof by archaeology

#### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 6*

- The Proof by the History of the Jewish People (Conclusion only)
- The Proof by Ancient Documents
- The Proof of Archaeology
- Conclusion

#### Questions for Fellowship

1. How does the history of the Jewish people prove to us that the Bible is the Word of God?
2. Has the Bible ever been completely destroyed?
3. Why did people love the Bible so much that they would risk their lives by keeping a copy?
4. What did the writers of the Bible think about each other? What does this tell us?
5. How do we know that today's Bible is accurate?
6. Practice proving to your companions that the Bible is inspired by God.

## The Bible—The Word of God

# Lesson 6: The Difference Between the New Testament and the Old Testament, the Apocrypha, the False Revelations, and the Translations

### Lesson Focus

The Bible is the most precious gift of God for man and we should treasure that we have a translated Bible, and in particular the Recovery Version translation, to help us accurately enter into the revelation in the Word of God. We should develop a habit and practice of reading the Bible, preferably in physical form, to allow the Lord to lead us on a journey of discovering the truth and light in the Word.

### Key Verses

**Heb. 8:8** ...Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, and I will consummate a new covenant upon the house of Israel and upon the house of Judah.

### Outline

- I. We should appreciate that the Bible has been translated.
- II. We should appreciate that we have an accurate translation in the Recovery Version.
- III. We should appreciate that we can have a physical Bible to read and receive revelation.

### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 4*

- The Difference Between the New Testament and the Old Testament (including A without subpoints )
- Summary
- The Apocrypha (including A and 1)
- Some False Revelations (including A to C)
- Conclusion

### Questions for Fellowship

1. What should our attitude be toward other proper translations of the Bible (that is, excluding the false revelations such as those used by the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses)?
2. What are some things that you personally appreciate in the Recovery Version?
3. In this digital age, what are some of the benefits of reading a physical Bible and ways we can practice doing so?

## The Bible—The Word of God

### Lesson 7: Our Attitude Toward the Bible

#### Lesson Focus

Although we may read the Bible, we may not fully understand it, think what we read is impossible, not fully agree with it, or not even like what we read. However, we can accept, agree with, and believe in God's word. This very much depends on our knowing the truth in the Bible. The truth we know in the Bible will be the truth we can apply. All of this can greatly uplift our attitude toward the Bible.

#### Key Verses

**Num. 23:19** God is not a man, that He should lie, / Nor a son of man, that He should repent. / Has He said, and will He not do it? / Or has He spoken, and will He not establish it?

**Psa. 119:66** Teach me proper discernment and knowledge, / For I believe in Your commandments.

**2 Cor. 4:13** And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak.

#### Outline

- I. We can accept, agree with, and believe in the Bible, the word of God; if we lack understanding, we can pray and fellowship until we are clear.
- II. In order to have the opportunity to accept, agree with, and believe in God's word, we need to know the truth in the Bible; key verses can serve as an entrance into the Bible (e.g. Rom. 10:9, 13; John 10:28-29; 1 John 1:7, 9; Lam. 3:56; 1 Pet. 5:7; Heb. 4:15)
- III. By knowing the truth, we can then apply the truth in our daily Christian life and in the church life.

#### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God—Lesson 23*

- The Need to Believe the Bible (including A to D)
- The Need to Apply the Truth of the Bible (including A and B)

#### Questions for Fellowship

1. What is your current attitude(s) toward the Bible?
2. What are the three key words from Roman numeral I? Discuss these words in relation to your experience?
3. How can knowing the truth in God's word affect our attitude toward the Bible?
4. Take some time to review the key phrases and points in the following verses: Romans 10:9, 13; John 10:28-29; 1 John 1:7, 9; Lamentations 3:56; 1 Peter 5:7; Hebrews 4:15.

## The Bible—The Word of God

### Lesson 8: The Burden of Reconstitution

#### Lesson Focus

We need to love God and His word. God's word conveys God Himself to us. By our coming to the word we contact God and can receive God in order to be reconstituted with God for His eternal dwelling place. This is God's purpose.

#### Key Verses

**Psa. 119:9** With what should a young man keep his way pure? / By guarding *it* according to Your word.

**John 17:17** Sanctify then in the truth; Your word is truth.

#### Outline

- I. God desires to reconstitute man with Himself. Have you ever considered what is God's purpose for man? What is God's purpose for you? Why did He create man? Why were you born? Why are you here today?
- II. The children of Israel were constituted with Egyptian diet and needed to be reconstituted with the heavenly diet.
- III. How can we be constituted with the heavenly diet, the truth?

#### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 23*

- The Need to Know the Truth in the Bible (including A to D)

*Life-Study of Exodus* message 34 (Read the following paragraphs)

- When we come to chapter sixteen, we see the importance of being reconstituted.
- Although the children of Israel had been redeemed and delivered, they were still Egyptian in their constitution.
- God's desire is to use His people as the material for the building of His habitation on earth.
- We need to see the significance of God's sending the quails and the manna.
- Eating quails makes people wild and unrestricted, but eating manna regulates them and causes them to be according to God.
- We have spoken many times of the Egyptian diet.

#### Questions for Fellowship

1. Recite and memorize Psalm 119:9 and John 17:17 and speak it to one another.
2. Pick one of those versus (Psalm 119:9 or John 17:17) and pray together with it.
3. What is the Egyptian diet and what of the Egyptian diet do you personally eat?
4. What is the heavenly diet and what is the purpose of the heavenly diet?
5. How can we be constituted with the truth?

## The Bible—The Word of God

# Lesson 9: The Way to Enjoy the Bible—By Letting the Word of Christ Dwell in Us Richly

### Lesson Focus

Letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly is one of the greatest blessings in our Christian life. When the Word of Christ begins to inhabit us in this way the word has an opportunity to speak to us and reveal Himself to us. The result of this really should be joy in our hearts. The kind of Word that indwells and moves and operates in us is different or opposed to the Word that we may just read or study in an external or objective way that never really enters us. We might know about it but there is no living component of it really at work in our being correcting, adjust and living in harmony with the Christ who is living within.

### Key Verses

**Col. 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

### Outline

- I. Letting the Word of Christ dwell in us richly being one of the greatest blessings in our Christian life.
- II. The Word of Christ dwelling in us richly results in being filled with joy.
- III. Functions of the Word of God:
  - A. Enlightening
  - B. Nourishing
  - C. Quenching our thirst
  - D. Strengthening
  - E. Washing
  - F. Completing and Perfecting
  - G. Edifying

### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 24*

- Text

*Life-Study of Colossians* message 29

- Letting the Word of Christ Inhabit Us

*Life-Study of Colossians* message 64

- Functions of the Word of God

### Questions for Fellowship

1. Is the Bible enjoyable to you? If not, why? If so, can you share a time in which you remember the Bible being enjoyable to you?
2. What does it mean for the Word of Christ to dwell in us?
3. How is this different than just merely reading the Word or studying it?
4. What function of the Word resonates with you most?

## The Bible—The Word of God

### Lesson 10: Pray-reading the Word

#### Lesson Focus

Learning to convert our reading into prayer causes the Bible to become a book that imparts God as life into us as our food and nourishment.

#### Key Verses

**Jer. 15:16** Your words were found and I ate them, / And your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart...

**John 6:63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

**Eph. 6:17b-18a** Receive...the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the Word of God, by means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit...

#### Outline

- I. The main function of the Bible is to impart God into us as life and as the nourishment of life.
- II. The essence of the Bible is spirit and life
- III. We need to learn to convert the letter of the Bible into prayer so that God's word becomes spirit and life to nourish us.

#### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 24*

- Pray-reading the Word of God

*The Full Knowledge of the Word of God* chapter 3

- Being Cleanse by Pray-reading

#### Questions for Fellowship

1. Spend 5 minutes to practice pray-reading Matthew 1:1 by yourself.
2. Fellowship from your experience of that time, both positives and challenges.
3. Share with each other any help on how to convert our reading into prayer.

## The Bible—The Word of God

### Lesson 11: Reading the Bible

#### Lesson Focus

Those who read the Bible must realize what the Word of God is and they must have a proper attitude toward the Word of God. If we are well prepared with regard to these two points, it will be much easier for us to read the Bible in a proper way.

#### Key Verses

**2 Tim. 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

**John 6:63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

**Psa. 119:130** The opening of Your words gives light, Imparting understanding to the simple.

#### Outline

- I. The Bible being the word of God
- II. The attitude in reading the Bible by contacting God, receiving life supply and enlightenment.
- III. Spending time in the Word being a necessity of life and being to honor the Lord.

#### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lessons for New Believers*—Lesson 6, Reading the Bible

- Containing Life
- Containing Light
- Contacting God Himself
- Receiving the Life Supply
- Receiving Enlightenment

#### Questions for Fellowship

1. What is the greatest honor we can give to the Lord?
2. Let one person pray a short prayer (e.g. Lord, thank You we can come to Your word. Speak to us, Lord, in Your word.) Then read Matthew chapter 1 with your group. Calculate how long it took you to pray a short prayer and read the chapter. Encourage each other to find a time to continue reading a chapter of the book of Mathew once a day.

## The Bible—The Word of God

# Lesson 12: Speaking the Word

### Lesson Focus

God's desire has always been that all His people would be a speaking people. After having been constituted with the truth in the Word and filled up with the Spirit, we should prophesy in the church meetings to build up the church. The Lord's goal is the built-up church. Our studying is not only for ourselves but for preaching the gospel to produce members for the Body of Christ and to build up the church.

### Key Verses

#### **1 Cor. 14:1, 3-4**

**1** Pursue love, and desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. **3** But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men. **4** He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

### Outline

- I. Prophesying in the meetings to build up the church
- II. Witnesses of the living Christ
- III. Speaking Christ by speaking the hymns

### Ministry Excerpt References

*Lesson Book, Level 6: The Bible—The Word of God— Lesson 24*

- Speaking the Word of God (including A and C)

### Questions for Fellowship

1. Why is it important to prophesy in the meetings?
2. What does it mean to be a witness of the living Christ?
3. What is a hymn that you have enjoyed? Practice speaking the hymn to one another.