

The Bible: God's Word

Unit 1, Lesson 1

Memory Work:

Begin memorizing the books of the Bible.

If you already know the books, memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

The lessons in Unit 1 are all related to becoming familiar with the Bible - its meaning, its origins, its format, and its contents. If you are doing this study as part of a group, complete the reading and learning activities before the Bible study group meets. Don't wait until the night before Bible study to work through the learning activities. God's Word needs time to work within you. You are encouraged not to skip any of the learning activities.

Write your thoughts and questions as you work through the lessons. Plan to share these at the Bible study. Also be sure to share how you are growing through this study as an encouragement to the group leader and fellow group members.

Each lesson begins with suggested memory work. Make a commitment to make God's Word a part of you through this process of learning a new passage each lesson.

The Bible is the Word of God. God reveals Himself and His will through what has been preserved in the writings of Scripture.

1. Even though the Bible records words spoken by human beings, the Bible is still considered to be the Word of God. How can this be?

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16, NASB)

2. How did Scripture come about?
3. What does this indicate about the accuracy, authority, and trustworthiness of the Bible?

4. How is Scripture to be used?

"Bible" is from the Greek *biblios* meaning "a little book". *Biblia* is plural, meaning "books". *Biblos* is from the word *biblos*, which means the bark of the papyrus plant, used to make a type of paper on which to write.¹

The Bible (and parts of it) is known by several names:

- Word (of God)
- Scripture(s)
- Law
- Commands
- Word of Truth
- Gospel

Inspire:

- to affect, guide; to stimulate to creativity or action; to be the cause or source of
- related to respire: to breathe life into
- NIV: "All Scripture is God-breathed" (2 Tim. 3:16a)

Reproof:

- to find fault

5. According to **2 Timothy 3:17**, what is the benefit of using God's Word in our lives?

Equip:

- to supply with necessary tools
- to furnish the qualities necessary for performance

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6. Read **Hebrews 4:12**. What are characteristics of God's Word?

How can words on a page be living and active?

7. What does God's Word do?

8. How does the Word do this (also consider 2 Timothy 3:16)?

9. What does this mean to you?

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10. According to **Psalms 119:11**, what benefit is there in knowing God's Word?

Psalms 119 is the longest chapter of the Bible and is all about the Word of God.

11. How can one "treasure" God's Word? (see NASB version)

12. The NIV Bible translates Psalm 119:11 as "*I have hidden your word in my heart.*" How would one hide the Word in the heart?

13. **Romans 15:4** gives additional purposes of Scripture. What are they?

What do you hope to learn or gain from this study of the Bible?

14. See also **I Corinthians 10:11** and describe what you can gain from Scripture.

15. What is another purpose of God's Word found in **Psalms 119:105**?

16. How does God's Word light one's path?

17. Is God's Word the lamp and light in your life? If not, what steps can you take to change that? If so, what benefits have you reaped from following the way lighted by God?

18. What is God's Word or Scripture called in **2 Timothy 2:15**?

Diligence (NKJV, NASB):

- characterized by persistent and painstaking effort

19. What is the goal set before us?

20. How does an accurate understanding and use of God's Word reflect on us?

21. Is this goal important to you? Why or why not? If not, spend time in prayer asking God to change your heart regarding His Word. If it is, what steps do you need to take to begin working toward this goal? Be sure to also consider the attitude described in the first part of this verse.

After studying these passages, explain how the history of mankind recorded in the Bible is the Word of God.

PROPHECY: Read **2 Peter 1:20, 21**

How does this passage explain the source of the Scriptures?

What does it say about understanding prophecy?

How is true prophecy identified?

Prophecy:

- to foretell what will happen as revealed by God
- to reveal the will or message of God
- may be written or oral

¹ D. Guthrie. "Bible." *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia*. 1976 ed.