

Section 1: Scripture | *Bibliology*

Lesson 1.1—What is the Bible

Memorize

Q1.1—What is the Bible?

A1.1— “[God’s] word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” – Psalm 119:105

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. How would you describe what the Bible is?
2. Why is the Bible so important?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Psalm 119:105—How does the psalmist describe God’s Word? What do these illustrations imply about the Bible’s influence on our living/thinking?
2. Psalm 119 is full of powerful descriptions of how and why God’s Word is precious to a believer. Read and discuss the following verses from Psalm 119:
 - a. Psalm 119:1
 - i. How is this person’s “way” described? **(Undefined.)**
 - ii. What is the result of this person’s walk being undefiled? **(They are blessed.)**
 - iii. How does a person make their way undefiled? **(By walking in the law of the LORD.)**
 - b. Psalm 119:2—What is a testimony of God and why are they important? **(A testimony is what God says about Himself. A believer is called to dwell on these things and seek them with their whole heart. This is a blessed life.)**
 - c. Psalm 119:4
 - i. How has God commanded us to keep His precepts? **(Diligently.)**
 - ii. What would it look like to keep God’s precepts “diligently?” **(It requires a life of discipline. Not merely glancing at His Word from time to time, but getting to know Him consistently. Assessing our lives carefully. Asking God to show us where we are thinking or living unbiblically and adjusting accordingly. We do not drift into godliness.)**
 - d. Psalm 119:9—How can someone who is young cleanse their way? **(Taking heed according to God’s Word. Paying close attention to it.)**
 - e. Psalm 119:10
 - i. How did this psalmist seek God? **(With his whole heart. This is not a shallow, lazy pursuit of God’s Word.)**
 - ii. What was his prayer? How does God’s Word help that prayer be answered?
 - f. Psalm 119:11, 15?
 - i. What did the psalmist do with God’s Word and why?
 - ii. How is hiding God’s Word in your heart different than mindlessly quoting verses because you are forced to?
 - g. Psalm 119:16—What does it mean to delight oneself in God’s statutes? Why does this include not forgetting God’s Word **(A person will delight in God’s Word the more they actually think on God’s Word. One reason people do not believe or enjoy the Bible is because they are lazy with reading it in the first place.)**
 - h. Psalm 119:18—What should we pray to God when we open the Bible?
 - i. Psalm 119:21—How are those who stray from God’s commandments described? **(Proud.)**
 - j. Psalm 119:24—There are countless models of counseling at odds with one another today. Where does this psalmist get his counsel? **(God’s Word)**
 - k. Psalm 119:25, 28—How does this downcast psalmist expect to be revived from being downcast?
 - l. Psalm 119:36—What is the opposite of loving God’s testimonies? **(Loving covetousness. Loving what you can get for yourself.)**

- m. Psalm 119:38—What is this psalmist devoted to? (**Fearing God. A person who is lazy in Scripture reading has an improper or lack of the fear of God.**)
- n. Psalm 119:41—Where do we best experience God’s mercies? (**His Word.**)
- o. Psalm 119:47—Can you say this has been true in your life? Why or why not? How can that change?
- p. Psalm 119:59—How does God’s Word redirect us? (**Notice that the person is not simply reading the Bible and trying to “feel close to God.” They are thinking about their own ways and changing according to what God’s Word says.**)
- q. Psalm 119:63—Who has this psalmist surrounded himself with? (**Others who fear God and keep His precepts. A biblical mind will not love the things of the world.**)
- r. Psalm 119:71, 82—Why are painful moments of life good for us? (**They can drive us back to God’s Word.**)
- s. Psalm 119:100—What is the result of knowing God’s Word? (**You have more understanding than even the wisest of the ancient people who did not have God’s Word.**)
- t. Psalm 119:114—How does God’s Word help us when we are afraid or in danger?
- u. Psalm 119:130—Is God’s Word too complicated to understand? (**No. It gives understanding to the simple.**)
- v. Psalm 119:133—What is the answer when you are struggling with sin? (**Directing your steps to God’s Word. This means assessing and changing.**)
- w. Psalm 119:140—In a world filled with lies, why is God’s Word precious? (**It is pure, unfiltered truth.**)
- x. Psalm 119:147–148—What does this teach us about what our commitment to Scripture should be or those who say they do not have time to read the Bible?
- y. Psalm 119:160—Is any part of God’s Word untrustworthy?
- z. Psalm 119:176—If we feel lost, what should our response be?

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. What do these verses teach you about the role the Bible should play in your life?

Section 1: Scripture | Bibliology
Lesson 1.2—Where did the Bible come from?

Memorize

Q1.2—Where did the Bible come from?

A1.2— “Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” – 2 Peter 1:21

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. How would you respond if someone said, “The Bible was written by men, so it cannot be trusted?”

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. 2 Peter 1:20–21
 - a. What do you learn about the Bible from these verses?
 - b. How does this help us respond to “The Bible was just written by men?” (**Of course, men wrote the Bible, all in their own style. But they wrote it by God’s Spirit. This actually shows the reliability of the Bible. Muslims say the Qur’an is word-for-word spoken by God himself and given to us as the perfect words by one man. Christians have multiple authors over multiple years, written in various styles, all pointing to the same message of Jesus Christ. The one can only properly understood in Arabic, which robs the rest of the world. The other is not tied so much to the original language as it is to the message that God was giving through those human writers.**)
 - c. What difference does it make that the Holy Spirit guided them along? (**Men wrote the Bible in the same sense that my pen writes something on a piece of paper. It writes only as I allow it to write. God used men as his pen. All of these men were carried along by the Holy Spirit. That God wrote through men as opposed to lowering a book down from heaven says nothing about whether the book was written by God or not.**)
2. 2 Timothy 3:16
 - a. What does this verse say about where the Bible came from? (**It is “given by inspiration of God” or “God-breathed.” The concept again is that men wrote it, but they wrote it as God’s Holy Spirit guided them to write for usefulness for the man and woman of God.**)
 - b. How much Scripture is given by inspiration of God? (**All of it.**)
3. John 10:35b—What did Jesus say about Scripture? (**It cannot be broken. This implies Jesus believed it to be [and He read the exact same Old Testament we read from] not the mere words of men, but of God Himself.**)
4. John 17:17—How are we sanctified? (**By God’s Word**) What does that teach us about the Bible? (**If it can make us holy, it itself is holy.**)
5. 1 Corinthians 2:13—What did Paul say about the words he and the other apostles taught with the authority of Christ? (**They were not teaching merely men’s words, but the Holy Spirit’s words.**)
6. Hebrews 4:12
 - a. What descriptions are given of the Word of God in this verse?
 - b. What does the Word of God do? What does that say about its origins?
7. Revelation 22:18–19
 - a. What was Revelation claiming about itself? (**To be a message directly from God that should never be altered. This warning would therefore apply to any God-breathed message.**)
 - b. What was it warning people of doing?
8. Luke 24:44—What did Jesus believe about the Old Testament (**He was the fulfillment of it all. Clearly it was God-given prophecy.**)
9. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

- a. What did Paul claim about the writings/teachings of himself and the other apostles? **(They were not the mere words of men, but the word of God.)**
- b. What was this word able to accomplish? **(It works effectively in the lives of those who believe. Paul was saying this about what he himself taught!)**
10. Acts 17:11—Did the words of men in the New Testament contradict the words of men in the Old Testament which Jesus believed was inspired? **(No. The people checked the apostles' words using Scripture.)**
11. Nehemiah 8:8—How did the Jews treat this Word?
12. Jeremiah 23:29—What does God claim about His Word? Is it the mere words of men?
13. 1 Corinthians 14:37—What does Paul and the Corinthians think about Paul's writings? **(They were not the mere words of men, but the words of men sent by the authority of Christ.)**
14. 2 Peter 3:2—Who does Peter put himself and the other apostles in the same category as? **(The prophets and the commandment of Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior.)**
15. 2 Peter 3:15–16—What does Peter say about Paul's writings? **(It is Scripture just as the Old Testament is Scripture. And people were trying to twist his writings even then.)**
16. 1 Timothy 5:18—Paul says he is quoting Scripture. Which Scripture? **(Point them to Luke 10:7. This shows that Paul quoted Luke as Scripture. Luke was the third Gospel account written and borrowed heavily from Matthew and Mark's accounts.)**
17. John 14:26—What made the apostles' message so trustworthy? **(They were sent by Christ Himself at a specific point in history. Even Paul was at the same time as the twelve were and did not contradict them, but was rather affirmed by them as scriptural.)**
18. Ephesians 3:3–5—What category does Paul put himself and the other apostles in? **(Along with the same Holy Spirit led prophets!)**
19. Revelation 1:11—What was John claiming to write? **(Scripture. The same John who wrote the Gospel according to John and 1–3 John.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. How would you respond to the same assertion: "The Bible is not trustworthy because it was written by men?"

Section 1: Scripture | Bibliology
Lesson 1.3—The Importance of the Bible

Memorize

Q1.3—How important is the Bible for faith and life?

A1.3— "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." – Matthew 4:4

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. How should the Bible impact our daily living/thinking?
2. What things are competing with the Bible's influence on our living/thinking? (**entertainment, social media, etc.**)

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Matthew 4:4—What significance is it that Jesus Himself lived not by His own will, but by God's Word?
2. Matthew 4:1–11—Jesus quoted this Scripture when He was being tempted by Satan. Read these verses. First discuss the whole passage. Then discuss the following questions:
 - a. 4:1—How did Jesus end up in the wilderness? (**He was led up by the Spirit. As truly man, Jesus was leaning on God for every step He took.**)
 - b. 4:2—What does it show us about Jesus that he was hungry? (**He was truly human. His needs were real.**)
 - c. 4:3–4—How does what Jesus quoted relate to what Satan was trying to tempt Him with? (**Satan was trying to play on His hunger. Jesus is showing us that God's Word is even more important to Him than food.**)
3. 2 Peter 1:3–9—This passage explains how God's Word ought to impact our day-to-day life. Read and discuss the following questions:
 - a. 1:3
 - i. What has God given to us by His divine power? (**All things that pertain to life and godliness?**)
 - ii. What does it mean that God has given us everything for life? What about godliness? (**Life simply means any possible thing we might experience in our day-to-day living. Godliness has to do with extraordinary living that glorifies God. The word in Greek hints at the concept of piety/devout living. Scripture is meant to impact any issue of life. That means Scripture is the first and foremost place we go to for help in any situation.**)
 - iii. How did God's power give us everything we need for life and godliness? (**Through the knowledge of Christ. This knowledge of Christ can only be found through Scripture.**)
 - b. 1:4
 - i. Where does Peter say we find the knowledge of Christ? (**By His exceedingly great and precious promises.**)
 - ii. Can anyone think of specific precious promises God makes that can help us with life and godliness? (**The entire gospel. Anything in Scripture that is passive/perfect. Passive in that God does it to us, and perfect in that God has completed it for us for good. Who we are in Christ, what He has done for us that we could not do, etc. Precious promises give us knowledge of Christ which makes us equipped for life and godliness.**)
 - iii. What happens as we trust God's precious promises? (**We partake of the divine nature. We enjoy God. We get a sense of who He really is in a way that pulls us away from the corruption of the world.**)
 - iv. How is the world corrupted? (**Through lust.**)
 - c. 1:5

- i. For what very reason? **(Because God's Word is enough to pull us out of the corruption of the world.)**
 - ii. How much effort should we put in to living by every word of God? **(All diligence.)**
 - iii. What are we to add to faith? **(Virtue—this is moral goodness. It is saying that we should strive to be good before God. To do what is right according to God's will.)**
 - iv. What do we add to virtue? **(Knowledge—This is a basic understanding. More comprehension of what you believe. Notice that a person does not need to have all the answers before they believe or even before they can obey God. Knowledge is a supplement to belief and good works, because knowledge apart from faith and good works is merely being puffed up.)**
- d. 1:6
- i. What do we add to knowledge? **(Self-control—This is a mastery over self. A death to the old self. Notice that full death to self happens as a person is understanding what it is God is calling them to do after faith and virtue.)**
 - ii. What do we add to self-control? **(Perseverance—This is an endurance in the face of adversity. A continuing to fight the good fight. This is a mature person continuing to press on in their faith.)**
 - iii. What do we add to perseverance? **(Godliness—Godliness is defined from the Greek term as “appropriate beliefs and devout practice of obligations.” While there was virtue earlier in the sense that the person was willing to pursue what is good generally, godliness implies a person has a fuller understanding and the experience of an enduring dying to self that leads them to a richer experience in their faith. Not that they are more loved by God than other Christians, but that they are enjoying deeper fellowship than they ever had before they persevered.)**
- e. 1:7
- i. What is added to godliness? **(Brotherly kindness—Notice that Peter makes brotherly kindness something we only really start to mature in when we are godly. This is the concept of 1 John with not loving your brother if you do not love God.)**
 - ii. What is added to brotherly kindness? **(Love—Agape. A covenant love. A deep commitment to give of oneself for the good of another.)**
- f. 1:8—What is the result for a person who has applied God's Word in their day-to-day life? **(They will bear fruit.)**
- g. 1:9—What is the result of a person who does not daily live by God's Word and fails to supplement their faith? **(They are shortsighted even to the point of forgetting that they were forgiven of their sins. Not that they stop being forgiven of their sins, but they are robbing themselves of the joy of the promises of their forgiven sins.)**
4. James 1:22–25
- a. 1:22—What are we called to be? What are we called to not be? Why?
 - b. 1:23–24—What illustration does James give of a person who is a hearer, but not a doer of God's Word?
 - c. 1:25—What is the result of a person who lives by every word that comes from the mouth of God?

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. Take an evaluation. What would it honestly look like for you to start growing in “living by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Do you have a Bible? Do you read it? What do you read? Do you memorize it? Do you think much on specific promises from God? What are some big issues in your life? How have you used/not used God's Word to deal with those things?

Section 1: Scripture | Bibliology
Lesson 1.4—The Usefulness of the Bible

Memorize

Q1.4—What is the Bible profitable for?

A1.4— “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” – 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What are the most important ways to use the Bible? **(Read it, memorize it, have it taught, preach from it, think on it, write it down, etc.)**
2. What is the purpose of listening to/reading the Bible? **(To grow. Namely, to become a man or woman of God and be mature.)**

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. 2 Timothy 3:16–17
 - a. We talked about this in an earlier lesson, but what does it mean that Scripture is given by inspiration of God? **(It is God-breathed. God led the human authors of Scripture to make sure it was His Word we are reading and will not fail us.)**
 - b. What four things does Paul say Scripture is profitable for? **(Doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.)**
 - c. What is the purpose of these four things? **(That we might become godly and be ready for everything God calls us to.)**
2. Scripture is profitable for doctrine. This is sound teaching. Read and discuss the following verses about how Scripture is useful for doctrine:
 - a. Ephesians 4:13–14—What does maturity look like here? **(Knowing Christ to the point where we stand firm. We cannot be led astray by crafty false teaching because we have listened to God’s sound doctrine.)**
 - b. 1 Timothy 6:3—What does sound doctrine accord with? **(Godliness. True doctrine is one which holds to God’s standards of living.)**
 - c. Titus 1:9—What is one purpose of knowing sound doctrine according to this verse? **(To avoid false teaching.)**
 - d. Titus 2:1—What are pastors called to do?
 - e. 1 John 4:1—What are we as Christians called to do? How can we do this? **(We cannot test false teachings if we do not know true doctrine.)**
3. Scripture is profitable for reproof. This is the concept of being warned about sinful behavior so you can repent. Read and discuss:
 - a. Psalm 141:5
 - b. Proverbs 10:17
 - c. Proverbs 12:1
 - d. Proverbs 27:6
 - e. Hebrews 12:5–11 **(What does this chastening from the Lord look like? How does it produce righteousness in us?)**
 - f. Revelation 3:19—What is the goal of reproof? **(Repentance.)**
4. Scripture is profitable for correction. This is the concept of being propped up. Made to stand again after falling. Scripture does not only reprove us by telling us what is wrong, it helps us be restored. Read and discuss the following verses about this:
 - a. Joel 2:25–26—What does it say about God that when these people repent, He will restore the land that the locusts had devoured as a punishment? **(God was the one to send the locusts, to**

lead the people to repentance. Once the repentance has come, He promises to restore that land and bless them so they will not be ashamed.)

- b. Psalm 51:12—This is a prayer of repentance. What does David ask for? Where is the restoration found? **(In the joy of God's salvation.)**
 - c. Isaiah 55:7—What does repentance look like? **(It is a forsaking, not a mere confession. A change.)**
 - d. Luke 15:21–24
 - e. 2 Corinthians 7:10 **(God will restore a sinner who repents.)**
 - f. 1 John 1:9—What is expected of us in this correction? **(Simply confess our sins.)**
5. Scripture is profitable for instruction in righteousness. This is the concept of putting righteous living into practice. The Bible applies to everyday life. Read and discuss:
- a. Deuteronomy 6:6–7 **(Challenge them. How many are dwelling on God's Word this way?)**
 - b. Psalm 32:8
 - c. Proverbs 22:6
 - d. 1 Timothy 6:11 **(Note the pattern: In light of who you are in Christ, put off the old, put on the new.)**
 - e. Titus 2:12 **(Same pattern.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

- 1. Evaluate your view of Scripture. Do you have a desire to grow up into a man or woman of God? What is the only way you can do that according to 2 Timothy 3:16–17? Make a plan, if you haven't already, to be in the Bible consistently.

Section 1: Scripture | Bibliology
Lesson 1.5—Sufficiency of Scripture

Memorize

Q1.5— How do we know God’s Word is sufficient?

A1.5— “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.” – Psalm 19:7–11

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Can you describe a time when God used the Bible to change your heart? **(Ex: such as on a retreat, in private reading, remembering a particular verse in the midst of temptation, comfort in a hard time, etc.)**

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Psalm 19:7–11—What do you see? **(Use this time to talk about what students see in this passage. We are going to look at various elements of Scripture from this passage throughout this lesson, but it is good to get them to observe it closely.)**
2. The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul. Read and discuss the following about God’s law, and how God’s Word converts souls.
 - a. Joshua 1:8 **(The Book of the Law was the Pentateuch. This included the stories of Genesis and Exodus, but also the commandments of Leviticus, and so forth. God’s laws are good because they are given by God. God’s Word is useful to convert souls. That is, a soul that is hard hearted toward God’s laws will become more and more corrupt, versus a soul that is walking according to God’s laws will enjoy the blessings that come with that.)**
 - b. Deuteronomy 6:6–7—Why did God want His law to be constantly dwelled upon?
 - c. 2 Chronicles 34:31–33—How did the law affect Josiah’s soul to be converted?
 - d. Nehemiah 8:9—Why did the people weep? **(They realized their guilt.)**
 - e. Romans 7:12 **(no, we are not saved by the law, but the law is still holy and just and good. It is good for us to know God’s law.)**
 - f. Galatians 3:24 **(The law points out our need of a savior.)**
3. The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple **(The word “testimony” here implies a reminder of the covenant the people are in. That is, a reminder of everything God has done and is and everything that comes with believing or rejecting that):**
 - a. Psalm 119:111
 - b. Psalm 119:130
 - c. Proverbs 1:1–5
 - d. Proverbs 8:1–9
 - e. Proverbs 9:1–6
 - f. Isaiah 8:20
4. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. Read and discuss **(“Statues” means directions and regulations. The way to go. Think of Proverbs.):**
 - a. Psalm 16:11
 - b. Psalm 1:1–3
 - c. Proverbs 4:18–19 **(The way of the just, because it is founded on God’s statutes, is like the sun shining brighter and bright on a perfect day. God’s statutes lead to a blessed life.)**

- d. Ezekiel 20:11 **(Again, God has shown us the way of life.)**
- 5. The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes:
 - a. John 12:50
 - b. 1 Timothy 1:5 **(Commands are not given arbitrarily, simply because God wants to give commands. They are given so we can love out of a pure heart, have a good conscience, and hold to a sincere faith.)**
 - c. 1 John 2:3 **(Keeping commands is a reminder of our salvation. This is not to say that if we fail to obey we should think we are not saved. Rather, it is a reminder as we obey and walk in His will, we will enjoy the joy and certainty of salvation.)**
- 6. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever:
 - a. Deuteronomy 10:12
 - b. Job 28:28
 - c. Proverbs 1:7 **(The word “fear” means “fear.” It includes a respect toward a superior, but also a state of terror and profound reverence. This attitude toward God is the beginning of knowledge. Such a person will be quicker to humble themselves before God.)**
 - d. Proverbs 14:27
 - e. Matthew 10:28
 - f. Luke 1:50
- 7. The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether **(“Judgments” means decision-making. God has declared His plan for humanity. They are true and righteous completely.)**
 - a. Psalm 33:5
 - b. Psalm 119:75
 - c. Revelation 16:4–7 **(God is righteous and true even in horrible judgment.)**
- 8. More to be desired are they than gold:
 - a. Job 23:12
 - b. Psalm 119:103
 - c. Proverbs 8:10–11
 - d. Jeremiah 15:16
- 9. By them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is a great reward: Job 5:17–18.

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

- 1. Do you struggle with loving God’s Word this much? What have you done to spend time in God’s Word to love it to that point?

Section 1: Scripture | Bibliology
Lesson 1.6—Scripture Pointing to Christ

Memorize

Q1.6—What is the purpose of the Bible?

A1.6— "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." – John 20:31

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. How would you respond if someone said they like the Bible because it can teach us good morals, but they do not think it comes from God?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. John 20:31
 - a. What do you see?
 - b. Why was Scripture written?
 - c. What are we called to believe? Why?
2. Luke 24:44—Was it just John who wrote so we can believe in Jesus? **(It was all Scripture.)**
3. John 5:39—What was Jesus's warning? **(Scripture does not give eternal life. Jesus gives eternal life. The Scriptures point us to Jesus, but it is Jesus who gives us life.)**
4. John said that He wrote that Scripture so it can point us to Christ, in whom we have salvation. Read and discuss the following verses about how finding Jesus in Scripture saves us:
 - a. John 6:68 **(Some people walk away from Christianity with all sorts of complaints, but they often fail to think through where it is they are going instead.)**
 - b. Romans 1:16 **(The Gospel is the power of God lit. "for everyone who is believing." That is, continually believing that the gospel is where the power of God is to be saved from whatever issues we are dealing with.)**
 - c. 2 Timothy 3:15—What are Scriptures able to do? Where do they point us? **(To Christ. That's where the salvation is.)**
 - d. James 1:21—What gets in the way of Scripture changing us? **(Filthiness and overflow of wickedness. Not wanting to change.)** How are we to receive God's Word? **(With meekness.)**
5. We are called to believe the Scriptures. Read and discuss the importance of believing the Word of God:
 - a. Psalm 119:66
 - b. Luke 8:12
 - c. John 3:16 **(Note the simplicity.)**
 - d. John 6:29
 - e. John 11:25–26
 - f. John 12:46
 - g. Acts 16:31 **(Again, note the simplicity.)**
 - h. Romans 4:3
 - i. Romans 10:17
 - j. Hebrews 3:16–19—Why were these people punished? **(Because of unbelief. Notice that they rebelled. But the rebellion itself came because of unbelief.)**
 - k. Hebrews 11:6
6. Discuss the following verses about people who know Scripture quite well, yet were dead in sins:
 - a. Isaiah 29:13
 - b. Matthew 7:21–23
 - c. Matthew 23:27–28
 - d. 1 Corinthians 8:1–2

e. Hebrews 4:2

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. Take some time this week to cry out to God before you read Scripture. Ask Him to help you really know Him. For example: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties.” Ask God to reveal Himself to you through His Word.”

Section 1: Scripture | Bibliology
Lesson 1.7—Scripture the Only Rule of Faith

Memorize

Q1.7—Why do we believe other religious books cannot save?

A1.7— "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty."

– 2 Peter 1:16

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. What if someone said “there are so many different sincere believers in other religions, how can we possibly be so arrogant to say we’re right?” **(Ultimately, we can say we are right for the same reasons we can say we are right on any issue people might be sincere about while being horribly mistaken. A person can sincerely believe they are actually a cat, but that does not make them a cat. We can point to legitimate and good reasons for why they are in fact a human. That is not arrogant, it is simply reality.)**

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. 2 Peter 1:16
 - a. What were the apostle’s writing based on? **(Eyewitness of account.)**
 - b. How does this differ from the books of other religions you might be aware of? **(Joseph Smith claimed that the Book of Mormon was an eyewitness account, but he only claimed to have found it roughly 2,000 years from when the book supposedly took place. It is filled with historical errors people would expect to find if it was made up [for instance, mistaking the geography of the land, mistakenly claiming horses were in North America before the Spaniards came], etc. He also claims to have found this book on gold plates which only he could translate, so he could not be double-checked. Muhammad claimed to have a vision on a mountain, but nobody else was with him. He claimed the Quran was eternally written in heaven, and simply comes out of his mouth. There was no way to double-check him. It also is filled with historical errors, such as claiming a temple was in Jerusalem at the time of Muhammad [Muhammad mistakenly thought there was currently a temple there because he had never been there to that point], or that Pharaoh threatened to crucify Moses [a punishment that was not invented at the time of the Exodus], or even mistaken theology about what Christians actually believe the trinity is [He thought the trinity means the Father, the Son, and Mary.])**
2. 2 Timothy 3:16–17—As Christians, what makes the Bible different from just being a book of good morals? **(It is God-breathed.)**
3. There can be no other book because Jesus claimed to be the only means of salvation:
 - a. John 5:39 **(This is one reason the Bible is different than the Quran. The Quran claims to be the eternal word of Allah. As if Allah had eternally had a book written in heaven. An uncreated book. This is why Muslims say it can only be understood in Arabic. What Muslims would say about the Quran, we would say about Jesus, not the Bible. Jesus is the true Word of God. He is the eternal, living Word of God.)**
 - b. John 14:6
 - c. Acts 4:12
 - d. 1 Timothy 2:5 **(Ultimately, the debate should come down to what we believe about Jesus not necessarily the Bible. Who was Jesus? Was He actually the Son of God who died for our sins and resurrected or not? If so, then any book that tries to change that message is false.)**
 - e. 1 John 5:12
4. God exposes false views:

- a. Isaiah 44:24–25 (**God does this through countless specific prophecies that have come true.**)
 - b. Isaiah 7:14 and Mathew 1:22–23
 - c. Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1
 - d. Ezekiel 26:3–5 (**Alexander the Great destroyed Tyre in 332 BC. He built a causeway with debris to reach the island city, literally throwing its stones and timber into the sea.**)
 - e. Isaiah 13:19–20 (**Babylon was conquered by the Medo-Persians [specifically prophesied in Daniel 7.] It is in ruins today.**)
 - f. Isaiah 44:28–45:1 (**This prophecy was written 200 years before Cyrus ever existed. He sent God’s people back and ordered the temple to be rebuilt just like God said 200 years before.**)
 - g. Daniel 8:21–22 (**This chapter makes clear that the king of Greece would conquer quickly, then be cut off as soon as he conquers, then four kingdoms would take its place, one of which would horribly persecute the Jews and desecrate the temple.. This happened when Alexander the Great conquered the world, died immediately after conquering much land, his kingdom was split among four major areas, one of which was Antiochus Epiphanes who horribly persecuted the Jews and desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig to Zeus in it.)**)
5. The Bible warns us of being led astray by crafty teaching that sounds similar to the Bible, but is actually a twisted lie:
- a. Jeremiah 23:16
 - b. Matthew 24:24
 - c. Mark 7:7
 - d. 2 Corinthians 11:3–4 (**The focus is on the real Jesus.**)
 - e. Galatians 1:8–9 (**This is precisely what Joseph Smith and Muhammad claimed.**)
 - f. Colossians 2:8 (**False religions focus on works and earthly traditions as opposed to the gospel of grace.**)
 - g. 2 Thessalonians 2:10–11
 - h. 2 Timothy 4:3–4

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

- 1. Consider listening to the *Survey of the Bible* course on gcchapel.org/courses. Lesson 1 covers the reliability of Scripture.

Section 1: Scripture | *Bibliology*

Lesson 1.8—The Old Testament is the Word of God

Memorize

Q1.8—How do we know the Old Testament is the Word of God?

A1.8— "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." – Luke 24:27

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. If someone said, "I like Jesus in the New Testament. But the Old Testament God just seems so mean," how would you respond?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Luke 24:27
 - a. Where did Jesus begin? What does this tell us about the Old Testament?
 - b. What did He talk to them about from the Old Testament? **(Things concerning Himself. This is a testimony that Jesus is not to be contrasted with the Old Testament. Jesus *is* the God of the Old Testament.)**
2. One way to assess the importance of the Old Testament is to see what Jesus said about it and which books Jesus read from as Scripture:
 - a. Luke 24:44 **(The phrase "Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms" is what is traditionally referred to as the TNK or the *Tanak*. This comes from three Hebrew words: Torah [the law], Nevi'im [prophets] and Ketuvim [Psalms/writings]. This is actually an incredibly significant verse regarding what Bible we read from. People often wonder why Roman Catholics and Protestants have different Old Testaments. It's because in the 1600s the Roman Catholics officially added the few Greek writings from the Greek version of the Old Testament. But before that, the church and Jews of Jesus's day and still today believed the TNK version of the Old Testament was the official doctrine. Here in this verse Jesus shows us that He read from and quoted from the TNK, our version of the Old Testament.)**
 - b. Matthew 5:17—Did Jesus come to make the Old Testament irrelevant? Why does it mean that He came to fulfill it? **(In contrast from destroying it. He is showing that He is the God of the Old Testament. Of course He did not come to destroy it. He was the one who gave it in the first place. He fulfills it by obeying it Himself! He fulfilled what we could not as fallen sinners.)**
 - c. John 10:35b—Did Jesus believe Scripture could lie to us or perhaps become totally irrelevant/outdated? **(No. All Scripture was given for our benefit.)**
3. Jesus repeatedly taught that the Old Testament pointed to Him. Read and discuss the following Old Testament passages and see what this shows us about Christ:
 - a. Genesis 3:15 **(Notice that the enmity is between the serpent and the woman's Seed. The language of a woman's Seed points us to a virgin birth. Jesus is the promised Seed.)**
 - b. Genesis 22:8 **(Jesus is the true only begotten Son who can be an offering for sin.)**
 - c. Exodus 12:5–7
 - d. Numbers 21:9 **(Christ became a curse for us so that if we simply look at Him, we will be saved.)**
 - e. Psalm 22:16 **(Pierced hands and feet. This entire Psalm paints a picture of Christ crucified in great detail)**
 - f. Isaiah 7:14 **(God in the flesh, born as a baby)**
 - g. Isaiah 53:5 **(Substitutionary atonement. A savior who dies for His people.)**
 - h. Daniel 3:25 **(The angel was described as being like the Son of God.)**
 - i. Micah 5:2 **(Born in Bethlehem Ephrathah. Ephrathah being the place where shepherds took care of sheep. His origins are from everlasting. He is the eternal God born in Bethlehem.)**

- j. Zechariah 9:9 (**Triumphal entry and the fact that He is a king.**)
- 4. How did the apostles view the Old Testament?
 - a. Romans 15:4 (**It was written for *us*. One of the most common liberal arguments against the reliability of Scripture is that Scripture is outdated and cannot possibly speak to our modern ears accurately. As I once personally heard a false teacher say, “The Bible does indeed say this is a sin. But we know that if it were written today, it wouldn’t say that.” This assumes men wrote with no inspiration from the Spirit of God. It denies what Paul said in Romans 15:4. All the Scripture was written for *us*.)**)
 - b. Acts 17:11 (**The Old Testament was used to assess even the Apostles’ message. Compare that to lying false prophets who claim the Scriptures have become corrupt and now they’re the only true messengers of God that can be trusted. They have removed the Scriptures as the standard of truth. Compare this to Isaiah 8:20.**)
 - c. 2 Peter 1:20–21

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. How often do you read the Old Testament? Take this as a challenge to consider beginning to read Genesis.

Section 1: Scripture | *Bibliology*

Lesson 1.9—The New Testament is the Word of God

Memorize

Q1.9—How do we know the New Testament is the Word of God?

A1.9— "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him?" – Hebrews 2:3

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. How do we know that the Apostles' writings are actually Scripture?
2. What makes the apostles different from someone who might claim to be a messenger of Christ today?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Hebrews 2:3—What do you see? **(The message of the New Testament was first spoken by the Lord Jesus. It is *His* message. That message is confirmed by the apostles. The apostles wrote and spoke with His authority.)**
2. John 6:68 **(Again, the New Testament is the message of Jesus. Jesus has the words of life because He is God incarnate.)**
3. Matthew 28:18–20—What does this tell us about the authority of the apostles' writings as Scripture? **(Jesus has all authority. He specifically commissioned them to go out with His authority. This is unique to that particular time in history and the people who had His authority at a time when that authority could have been easily assessed as consistent or inconsistent with who He actually was. This is why people cannot claim to be commissioned by Christ today.)**
4. John 14:26 **(The Holy Spirit guided them to make sure what they wrote was faithful.)**
5. 2 Peter 1:16—Where did the apostles' message come from? What else do you see here? **(Their authority comes in being eyewitnesses. Not just eyewitnesses of Him as a human in the flesh, but close eyewitnesses whom He personally elected and sent out with His authority.)**
6. Acts 4:20
7. 1 John 1:1–3—What does this tell us about the apostles' message?
8. Luke 1:1–3—Luke was not an apostle. He was close companions of Paul and a faithful historian. He provides us with an eyewitness account based on interviewing apostles and other eyewitnesses. What does that tell us about Scripture? **(Luke was being guided by the Holy Spirit to write Scripture, even as he was simply trying to give a faithful historical account.)**
9. Ephesians 3:4–5. What does this tell us about the apostles' message? **(It was at that specific point in history that God was now revealing, by His Holy Spirit to the apostles, something that was once hidden. There is no need for new revelation today as these mysteries were already revealed in the time of the apostles.)**
10. 1 Corinthians 2:13—Did Paul think his teaching was being protected by the Holy Spirit?
11. Hebrews 1:1–2—What does this tell us about people updating the message of Christ? **(They are lying. Look at the verse in Hebrews. In these last days He has spoken to us by His Son. He spoke through His Son once for all. And He did that through the incarnation itself and also through the apostles He sent out once for all. There is no need for newer revelation.)**
12. 2 Peter 3:15–16—What did Peter think about Paul's writings? **(They are Scripture.)**
13. 1 Timothy 5:18—What "Scripture" is Paul quoting here? **(Luke 10:7.)**
14. 1 Thessalonians 2:13—What did Paul think of his teaching?
15. Revelation 22:18–19—What did John claim about his writing?
16. 1 Corinthians 14:37—How did Paul view his letters?

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. Because of ridiculous non-scholarly works presented on youtube or the History Channel, many people wonder about “lost books” as if there were some conspiracy keeping books out of the New Testament. Spend some time considering these statements:
 - All of our New Testament books were recognized early by Christians because they were written by apostles or their close associates during the 1st century, within decades of Jesus’ life (e.g., Paul’s letters from the 50s-60s AD, and the Gospels by the end of the 1st century). We have writings one generation apart from Paul, written by people who knew Paul personally yet acknowledge all our New Testament Pauline writings as Scripture.
 - In contrast, “lost gospels” like the *Gospel of Thomas* (Earliest fully copy we have is from 350 years after Jesus, earliest small fragments we have are from 200 years after Christ) and the *Gospel of Judas* (earliest copy we have is from 400 years after Christ!) emerged well after the apostolic era and could not have been eyewitness accounts.
 - These later writings often promoted Gnostic ideas that contradict the eyewitness writings we do have access to. Like other known fake “eyewitness” accounts, these false gospels provide no geographical detail because they were ignorant of the details of the land and people’s names at the time.
 - The earliest church father writings available openly defend the existence of four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—as the authentic accounts of Jesus’ life.
 - The New Testament books were written and widely circulated during the lifetime of the apostles, as seen in Colossians 4:16, where Paul’s letters were read in churches. If whole books were burned or “destroyed” it would have required burning/destroying hundreds of thousands of copies of the New Testament across the entire globe and erasing the countless church writings we have quoting only from our New Testament, an impossible task.
 - The church’s recognition of the New Testament canon was not arbitrary but based on three criteria: apostolic origin, doctrinal consistency with the teachings of Jesus and the Old Testament, and widespread use in Christian worship. Simply read any early church father and you will not be surprised to see them quoting as Scripture *only* what we have in our New Testament.
 - Jesus Himself promised the Holy Spirit would guide His apostles into all truth (John 16:13), ensuring the accurate preservation of His Scripture.

Section 1: Scripture | *Bibliology*

Lesson 1.10—Scripture as the Final Rule of Faith

Memorize

Q1.10—How does God speak today?

A1.10— "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." – Romans 10:17

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. Can someone say something new from God that contradicts the Scripture? Why or why not?
2. Why is the Bible more trustworthy than someone claiming to receive a prophecy from God?

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Romans 10:17
 - a. How does this affect the saying “preach the gospel, use words if necessary.” **(The Gospel cannot be preached without words. The gospel is the message of Jesus Christ. This message must be understood and spoken through mouth, written word, etc.)**
 - b. What would be missing if the word of God was not present? **(Faith. And thus, salvation.)**
2. Deuteronomy 13:1–5. Read and discuss the standards God set up to determine a false prophet **(They are to be assessed based on previous God-given revelation in Scripture).**
3. Isaiah 8:20—What if someone has a dream/prophecy/or vision that can be proven to disagree with the Bible? What if that prophecy came true? **(It would not matter if they predicted everything down to every detail. If they do not speak aligned with Scripture, they have no light in them.)**
4. 2 Timothy 3:16–17. Does Scripture need to be supplemented by other things? How do we know? **(Scripture is sufficient for every good work.)**
5. Colossians 2:18—What is the problem with these things? **(There is a focus on visions, angels, things that are experiential and not founded in God’s Word. They are speculative. This is precisely the horrible danger of the countless books where people claim to have died and saw a vision of heaven. They are claiming to have visions of heaven in addition to Revelation and often times focus on details that Scripture says nothing about.)**
6. 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10—Many people today make a big deal about seeing God “move” through signs and wonders. What does this verse warn us of? **(A disproportionate obsession on signs and wonders is dangerous.)**
7. Galatians 1:6–12
 - a. Why is it always going to be false when someone claims to have had a vision of God and to be the newest prophet?
 - b. What strong words did Paul use in this passage? Why?
 - c. Where did the true gospel come from that Paul and the other apostles taught? **(Jesus Christ Himself.)**
8. 2 John 1:9–11—How will we know who has the true gospel and who does not?
9. Jude 1:3—How would Jude respond to someone claiming to have a better way to hear from God than the Bible? **(The faith was already once for all delivered to the saints through the message of the apostles.)**
10. Jude 1:4–16—What does Jude say about false teachers who try to pull people away from the plain words of Scripture?
11. Jude 1:17—What is the solution to making sure we are not led astray by false teachers? **(Remembering the actual words of Scripture.)**
12. Colossians 3:16—How are we to speak to one another?
13. Joshua 1:8—What does this verse show us about how the Bible should affect our daily choices?
14. John 8:31–32—How do we have assurance we are truly Christ’s disciples, according to these verses? **(Abiding in His Word.)**

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. In light of what we learned, how can we respond if a person says, “I know the Bible says this is a sin, but my feelings tell me this is what will make me happy?”

Section 1: Scripture | Bibliology
Lesson 1.11—Relevancy of Scripture

Memorize

Q1.11—How do we know every Word was written for us?

A1.11— "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." – Romans

15:4

Exploration (What Do We Think?)

1. How can we respond to someone arguing: "Yes, the Bible says that is a sin, but if it were written today, we know it would say something different because we're a more civilized society?"
2. What if someone said, "the Bible is such an old book, it can't possibly have any relevancy for us today."

Look at the Book (What Does the Bible Say?)

1. Romans 15:4—What does this teach us about the timelessness of Scripture?
2. 1 Corinthians 10:11—What does Paul say the Old Testament stories were written for? **(The events themselves happened as examples to us of what we should/should not do. They were written down for our admonition. So we can be warned.)**
3. Deuteronomy 29:29—To whom are the spiritual things about God revealed to? **(The people of God forever. The whole purpose being that we can obey the plain Scripture.)**
4. Isaiah 40:8—Does God's Word get outdated?
5. Nehemiah 8:8—Some churches teach that Bible study should simply be about what a verse makes you feel. What is the danger in that? How does this verse speak to that? **(Notice that learned men instructed the people. They helped them to understand the meaning of what they were reading. The words in and of themselves meant something, regardless of what the words might make a person feel/not feel.)**
6. Matthew 24:35—What did Jesus claim about His words?
7. Hebrews 13:8—How is this a response to false teachers who assume the Bible might say something totally different about morals if it were written today?
8. Matthew 28:19–20—Did Jesus seem to think the message would eventually need to be updated?
9. Psalm 100:5—What does God's Word claim about itself? **(It is for all generations)**
10. Acts 2:39—Who was the gospel originally given for? **(As many as God would eventually call. From all generations.)**
11. John 6:63—Why is God's Word still trustworthy even 2000 years later? **(They are spiritual words and life-giving words.)**
12. Revelation 22:6—What does God claim about His Word?
13. Proverbs 30:5

Lining Up With God (What Does it Mean for Us Today?)

1. As we finish our study on the Bible, read and discuss these familiar verses:
 - a. Psalm 119:9
 - b. Psalm 119:130
 - c. Jeremiah 15:16
 - d. Matthew 7:24
 - e. Luke 11:28
 - f. Colossians 3:16
 - g. James 1:21
 - h. Revelation 1:3