

WORD OF GOD

What makes Christianity unique is its claim to an absolute written authority from God. The word of God is essential to your growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The bible sets a standard by which we are to conform our life. In its pages, we see how God governs the details of our lives in every way.

The key word of this lesson is:

INFALLIBLE

The key questions this lesson answers:

Do I have God's word today?

What is the significance of the bible in my life?

The key purpose of this lesson:

To acquaint you with the basics of the bible, and to learn how it relates to your everyday life as the guide to your personal walk with Jesus Christ.

The key point of this lesson:

Every experience in your life, physical or spiritual, should be judged by the infallible standard of the God's word. The bible is the absolute final authority in your life as a believer.

MEMORY VERSES

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." – 2 Peter 1:21

"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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

UNDERSTANDING THE ACCURACY OF GOD'S WORD

The bible has a unique construction.

- The bible is a collection of 66 books. There are 39 books in the Old Testament, and 27 books in the New Testament.
- The bible was written by more than 40 men in three languages over a time period of approximately 2,000 years.
- The bible is accurate in all matters of history, prophecy, and in every issue of life.
- The bible does not contradict itself.
- The bible fits together perfectly, as if it were written by one man, because the Holy Spirit is the author of all 66 books.

A. The bible is the INSPIRED word of God.

The Spirit of God moved men of God to write the word of God. God revealed his word, and men published it.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21

B. The bible is the INFALLIBLE word of God.

God holds himself to the truth of his word. Every word of the bible is perfect, and there is no error within it.

Proverbs 22:20-21

C. The bible is the COMPLETE word of God.

We are warned not to add to or change the inspired, perfect, and preserved word of God. God's Word is complete; there is no new revelation from God outside of the bible.

Proverbs 30:5-6

D. The bible is the PRESERVED word of God.

God's word is eternal. He has promised to preserve his perfect word throughout history and for every generation. You can be sure that you have access to God's perfect and inspired word today.

Mathew 5:18

DISCUSSION:

Do you believe that your copy of God's word is perfect, and without errors?

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

God has preserved his word for the very purpose of giving you instruction for victorious living. The bible is the absolute final authority in your life as a believer. The truths of God's word are greater than any experience that you might have.

"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." – John 7:24

Example:

In **2 Peter 1:16-21**, the Apostle Peter allowed God's word to be his final authority when he compared it to his experience on the holy mount with Jesus in **Matthew 17:1-9**.

Peter was relating his experience of seeing the glorified Jesus and hearing the audible voice of God from heaven. Peter understood that believers have a "more sure" authority in the word of God than in the audible voice of God. His conclusion was that every experience, spiritual or physical, in our lives should be judged by the infallible standard of God's word.

UNDERSTANDING THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD

A. The word of God has the power to save you.

1. The bible says that the word of God is able to save your souls. Without the word of God, mankind would have no opportunity to be saved.

James 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:15

2. The only way we can know the gospel is because the bible reveals it. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again according to the scriptures. You must hear and believe what the bible says about your sin, your lost condition, and God's plan for your salvation in order to be saved.

Romans 10:17; Ephesians 1:13

3. God's plan of salvation begins with him sending out his word so that man can be saved. Therefore, you have the responsibility to share the word of God with others so that they may also be saved.

Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:13-15

B. The word of God has the power to guide you.

1. Our own natural intellect can never fully comprehend the things of God. God gave us the Spirit of God so that we can know and understand his word. All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and can learn the bible.

John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14

2. As you begin to study and understand the bible, you will become equipped to make biblical and spiritual decisions in your life. The word of God gives you clear direction and provides you with the mind of Christ for any situation in life.

1 Corinthians 2:15-16; Psalm 119:105

C. The word of God has the power to grow you.

1. The word of God transforms you as it cleanses you from the inside out.

John 15:3; Psalm 119:9-11

2. The word of God helps you to overcome spiritual opposition as you apply scripture to your temptation.

Luke 4:1-13

3. The word of God equips you to serve God and to live out its truths.

“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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

– 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- a. DOCTRINE – *The bible teaches you what is true.*
- b. REPROOF – *The bible reveals areas in your life that are wrong.*
- c. CORRECTION – *The bible directs your attention to what is right.*
- d. INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS – *The bible teaches you to live what is right.*

DISCUSSION:

What verses of the bible did God use to reveal your need for salvation?

Can you share an example of how your reading and studying God’s word helped you to make an important decision in your life?

How has your life changed after choosing to allow the word of God to be your final authority?

SOME COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD

A. Is it really necessary to use the bible when sharing your faith?

Yes. Individuals need to hear the word of God in order to be saved.

1 Peter 1:23; Romans 10:17

B. Can someone really understand the bible without outside resources?

Yes. The best commentary on the bible is the bible itself. It is filled with self-defining passages and cross references within its own pages.

Isaiah 28:9-10

C. Does reading the bible really change a person?

Yes. You are to read the bible not to be informed, but rather to be transformed by the truth of God's word. The truth of the bible cleanses you from the inside out, and gives you victory over sin in your life.

John 17:17; John 8:32

SOME BASIC QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

A. Where should I start reading?

You should begin to invest your time in God's word by focusing on some of the passages that deal with your relationship with your heavenly Father.

1. The gospel of John is written so that you might believe on Jesus Christ.

John 20:31

2. The epistles that the Apostle Paul wrote are focused on how to serve God through the ministries of the local church.

Romans - Philemon

3. The book of Proverbs will give you wisdom and insight into life.

Proverbs 1:7

B. How do I have a quiet time?

It is important to understand that you are meeting with God, and not just reading the bible. He will speak to you through his written word, and you speak to God through prayer. God wants you to know and understand what his word says to you. As you read the bible, ask simple questions like... What does this passage say? What is God teaching me in this passage? After you have read the bible, ask God to guide you and give you wisdom in how to apply its truths to your life.

Proverbs 2:1-6

As you learn the bible, your love for God and his word will grow. You will prove your love for God as you respond by believing what the bible says, and by living out its truths.

John 14:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; James 1:22-25

C. What if I find something in the Bible that I don't understand?

You will find many things you do not understand. Do not get frustrated. Wait for God to reveal it to you in his time. The most important thing is to live out what you DO understand. God will not give you more than you are capable of handling. As you put the things you are learning into practice, God will entrust you with more. The Spirit of God alone will guide you into all truth as you compare scripture with scripture.

John 16:12-15

D. Can I rely on the accuracy and authority of God's word?

There are two different views of the bible among believers today. Those with a faith view of scripture believe that the word of God is perfect, inspired, complete, and preserved. They believe God is able to preserve his word perfectly in any language. However, those with a critical view of the bible believe that the word of God may contain errors that need to be corrected through human scholarship and intervention.

Unfortunately, the critical view of scripture has caused confusion among Christians, and has led many to no longer believe in the accuracy and authority of God's word. It has also motivated some to produce alternate versions of the bible in different cultures and languages.

It is important for you to have a faith view of the scripture, and to know that you can rely on the accuracy and authority of God's word that is available to you in your language. If there are multiple versions available to you, then ask your discipler to assist you in discovering which version of the bible is rooted with a faith view of the scriptures, and use it as your copy of God's word.

Mathew 5:18

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. List four reasons why you can know that the bible is reliable in every detail.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2. As you begin to study and understand the bible, you will be equipped to make biblical and spiritual decisions in your life. What decision will you trust God to guide you in this week?

3. According to *1 Corinthians 2:9-16*, why is it not possible for lost people to understand what the word of God teaches?

4. List four ways in which God's word will transform your life. Give a scripture reference for each.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

5. According to *2 Timothy 3:16-17*, what four things do the scriptures provide to equip the believer for service?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

6. What is the key purpose of the lesson, and what has it taught you?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Read the following verses and write down six types of food that the scriptures use to describe the word of God.

1 Peter 2:2

Psalms 119:103; Proverbs 16:24

Proverbs 7:2; 25:11

Luke 4:4

Ephesians 5:26; Isaiah 55:10-11

1 Corinthians 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-14

Read *Psalms 19:7-11* and *Hebrews 4:12-13*. Choose one of the passages and make a list of the characteristics of God's word that you find.

Read *Psalms 1* and then compare how your relationship with God's word will affect the way you live your life.

It is important that you have your own time to meet with God through his word. Where are you currently reading in the bible? Write down a truth that God has shown you from that passage? How are you living out this truth in your life today?
