Big Idea

The Bible is a beautiful union of the divine and the human, seamlessly blending the Holy Spirit's inspiration with human language, research, and unique styles to give us a resilient hope in Jesus today.

How to Use This Handout

- Read the passage.
- Notice what the text says.
- Bring your questions and reflections to the discussion.
- Leave space for what God is showing you.

Day 1: The Prophetic Writings

Main Theme The ancient Scriptures were written down so that through their comfort, we might find a resilient hope in Jesus today.

Set the Scene The Apostle Paul reminds the believers in Rome that the ancient writings of the prophets were not just for the people back then, but are intensely personal for us now.

Read

Romans 15:4 "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." (NKJV)

Think About

- How does reading about the struggles and victories of ancient people give us patience in our own trials?
- What does it mean to find "comfort" in the Scriptures?

Notice

- Things written in the past are for: _____
- The Scriptures provide: _____
- The ultimate goal of the writings is to give us: _____

Apply When I feel discouraged this week, how can I use a favorite Bible passage specifically to look for a reason to hope?

Day 2: The Call to Write

Main Theme God commanded His prophets to write down His messages to preserve the truth from being distorted by time or human memory.

Set the Scene After a major victory against the Amalekites, God instructed Moses to take a new step in communication to ensure future generations would never forget His deliverance.

Read

Exodus 17:14 "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Write this for a memorial in the book...'" (NKJV)

Think About

- Why did God need to shift from spoken communication to written communication?
- How does the written Word protect us from the subtle deceptions of false teachings over time?

Notice

- What God explicitly commands Moses to do: _____
- What the writing serves as: _____
- Who the written record is to be passed down to: _____

Apply What is one answered prayer I can write down this week as a personal memorial of God's faithfulness?

Day 3: Literary Genres and Styles

Main Theme The Holy Spirit used a beautiful variety of literary styles—from poetry to narrative—to reach every kind of heart with the truth.

Set the Scene The Bible is not just one long essay; it is a library of books where prophets received visions and translated them into human language using their own unique styles.

Read

Isaiah 13:1 "The burden against Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why do you think God chose to use so many different writing styles (poetry, history, prophecy) instead of just one?
- How does knowing that the prophets used their own vocabulary and style change how you read the Bible?

Notice

- How Isaiah refers to his message: _____
- Who the message is specifically directed against: _____
- What the passage highlights that the prophet "saw": _____

Apply As I read a Psalm and a Proverb today, how can I notice God using both poetry and logic to speak to me?

Day 4: Literary Assistants

Main Theme God inspires the thoughts of the prophet, but He often uses the faithful skills of human assistants to get the message onto the page.

Set the Scene Writing in the ancient world was a specialized and expensive skill, so prophets often employed literary assistants to physically write their God-given messages.

Read

Jeremiah 36:17-18; Romans 16:22 "...He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink in the book." (NKJV)

Think About

- Does it surprise you to learn that Paul didn't physically write the book of Romans himself? Why or why not?
- How does the use of literary assistants show that God values teamwork and community in His church?

Notice

- What Jeremiah verbally proclaimed: _____
- What Baruch physically did: _____
- Who Paul used as a scribe to write his letter to the Romans: _____

Apply Who is someone in my church who works faithfully "behind the scenes" that I can thank today?

Day 5: Literary Sources

Main Theme The Holy Spirit often guides biblical writers to do careful historical research and select material from existing sources to flawlessly convey the truth.

Set the Scene While some prophets received sudden visions, others were inspired by the Holy Spirit to carefully gather eyewitness accounts and historical records to compose their books.

Read

Luke 1:3 "...it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account..." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why is it important to know that Bible writers like Luke did careful historical research?
- How does the Holy Spirit's guidance ensure that this human research results in an infallible, inspired message?

Notice

- What Luke acknowledges others have also written: _____
- What he investigated and gained from the beginning: _____
- His goal to write: _____

Apply How can I commit to studying one story of Jesus this week using a commentary or study guide to dig deeper into its historical context?

Day 6: Divine Message and Human Imperfections

Main Theme God deliberately placed His flawless divine truth into fragile, imperfect human hands so that the glory belongs entirely to Him.

Set the Scene The Apostle Paul openly acknowledged his own human weaknesses, but he recognized a beautiful, divine purpose behind his fragility.

Read

2 Corinthians 4:7 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why would God trust the most important message in the universe to imperfect "clay jars" like the prophets and apostles?
- How does knowing the Bible was written by flawed humans actually strengthen its claim to divine power?

Notice

- How the gospel is described: _____
- Where it is kept (earthen vessels): _____
- The purpose of this arrangement: _____

Apply How can I stop hiding my flaws from God and offer my weaknesses to Him today so He can display His grace?

Day 7 Reflection

This week I discovered:

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-

A truth about Jesus I want to remember:

_____

_____

One step I will take this week:

_____

_____

Prayer:

_____

_____