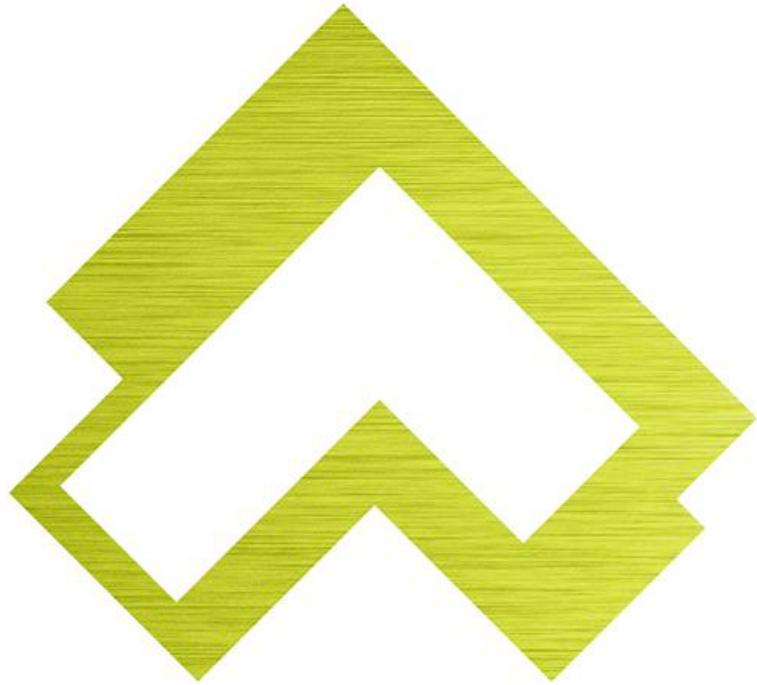


The Journey of Faith

Session 5



THE
SUMMIT
CHURCH

The Word of God

Teaching Chart

THE GUIDEBOOK TO LIVING IN GOD'S FAMILY

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son..." (Hebrews 1:1-2, ESV)

SESSION 5: WORD OF GOD

Message - Revelation

- Old Testament (Creation, Miracles, Writings, Dreams, Visions, Prophets)
- New Testament (Jesus Christ, Miracles, Writings, Disciples/Apostles)
- Modern-Day (The Bible)

Method - Inspiration

- Words written by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Men Chosen to Write Words (2 Peter 1:20-21)
- When Scripture Speaks, God Speaks

Maintenance - Preservation

- Preservation (Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35)
- Infallibility (Not capable of teaching any error)
- Inerrancy (No errors in original manuscripts)

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

How is Scripture Profitable in Our Lives? – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Teaching (What is Right)
- Reproof (What is Wrong)
- Correction (How to Get Things Right)
- Training in Righteousness (How to Keep Things Right)

Lesson

Overview: Whenever you purchase an item that requires assembly, there is always an important part of that package – the instruction booklet. Without that booklet, your project would end up disastrous! Why? You would have to depend on your own wisdom to figure out how the pieces fit together and how the finished product can be used properly. In a general sense, the Word of God (Bible) is the Christian's instruction booklet on living life. The pages of the Bible contain information and instruction about knowing God, punishment for sin, reward for obedience, the life and example of Jesus Christ, and life after death.

Purpose: To instruct the believer about the purpose of the Bible and how it relates to daily life

Verses: **2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- I. What is the Word of God (Bible)?
 - A. The Bible is a book.
 1. The Bible is made of two testaments (covenants) – old and new.
 - a. The Old Testament contains 39 books that detail the calling and history of the nation of Israel.
 - b. The New Testament contains 27 books that detail the life and work of Jesus Christ and His redemptive plan for all mankind.
 2. The Bible consists of 66 books within itself.
 3. The 66 books within the Bible contain a total of 1,189 chapters.
 4. The Bible was written by more than 40 men.
 5. The Bible was written over a period of 2,000 years.
 - B. The Bible is the words of God written and communicated from God to all mankind.
 1. The Old Testament claims to be the words of God.
 2. The New Testament claims to be the words of God.
 - C. The Bible is called by many different names.
 1. The Word of God or God's Word
 2. The Scriptures or Holy Scriptures
 3. The Bible or Holy Bible

- II. How did we get the Bible?
 - A. The Message God delivered to man – Revelation
 1. God has chosen to reveal Himself to man so that man can know Him.
 - a. In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself through creation, miracles, written scripture, dreams, visions, and spoken words of prophets.
(*Hebrews 1:1*)
 - b. In the New Testament, God revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ.
(*Hebrews 1:2*)
 - 1) Incarnation of Jesus Christ (God in human flesh)
 - 2) Miracles of Jesus Christ
 - 3) Spoken words of apostles and prophets
 - 4) Written scripture
 2. God has chosen to reveal Himself in His Word, which is called the Bible.
 - a. The word of God contains all of these elements of revelation in written form.
 - b. Therefore, the Bible is the complete embodiment of God's revelation to man.
 - c. The Bible does not contain the words of God, but is the words of God.
 - B. The Method God used to deliver the message – Inspiration
 1. The words written came from God the Holy Spirit.
(*2 Timothy 3:16*)
 - a. The word *inspiration* means God-breathed.
 - b. All the words written in the original manuscripts were God-breathed (verbal plenary inspiration).
 - 1) *Verbal* means words.
 - 2) *Plenary* means all.
 - 3) In summary, verbal plenary inspiration means that all words contained in the Bible are God-breathed.
 - c. The original manuscripts were written in different languages.

- 1) The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic (only some portions of Daniel and Ezra).
 - 2) The New Testament was originally written in Greek.
2. Men chosen by God wrote the inspired words.
(2 Peter 1:20-21)
- a. God used over 40 human writers to write the words given to them by Him.
 - 1) Inspiration not only includes the thoughts and concepts of the writers, but the very words of God.
 - 2) God used the personalities of the writers who were writing the words of scripture.
 - b. The men who wrote the Bible were not inspired; however, the words of God, as they were originally given, were inspired.
3. When scripture speaks, God speaks.
- C. The Maintenance of the message throughout the ages – Preservation
1. God promised to preserve His word for all times and people.
(Isaiah 40:8)
(Matthew 24:35)
 - a. The Word of God is infallible (speaks only truth).
(Psalms 19:7)
(John 17:17)
 - b. The Word of God is inerrant (contains no mistakes).
 2. God has preserved His word without the loss of any material throughout the ages.

III. What is the purpose of the Word of God?
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- A. The Bible reveals to us what is right (doctrine).
- B. The Bible reveals to us what is wrong (reproof).
- C. The Bible reveals to us how to correct what is wrong (correction).
- D. The Bible reveals to us how to continue to do right (instruction in righteousness).

IV. Why should I study the Word of God?

- A. The Bible changes us.
(Psalms 19:7)
 1. The Bible is the only source of truth in a wicked world.
(John 17:17)
 2. The Bible helps us to see areas of our life that need to be changed in order to be more like Christ.
(James 1:22-25)
- B. The Bible reveals God's will (plans) for us.
 1. God's will is for us to be a Christian.
(2 Peter 3:9)
 2. God's will is for us to be controlled by the Spirit.
(Ephesians 5:17-18)
 3. God's will is for us to be submissive to those in authority over us.

(1 Peter 2:13-15)

- C. The Bible helps us to grow closer to God.
(2 Corinthians 3:18)
- D. The Bible guides us in the way we should live.
(Psalms 119:105)

V. How do I study the Word of God?

- A. You must begin by reading the Word of God.
 - 1. Search for the main truth of the passage.
 - 2. Do not simply pick and choose verses to read.
 - 3. Read passages to gain a better understanding of the overall theme.
(Isaiah 28:9-10)
- B. You must then interpret the passage.
 - 1. Ask questions.
 - a. What does this mean?
 - b. What is the Bible trying to say?
 - 2. Remember that the Bible will never contradict itself.
 - 3. Do not make the Bible mean what you want it to mean.
- C. You can consult other resources.
 - 1. Study commentaries, concordances, and other materials for further insight on a passage
 - 2. Pray for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit in understanding the passage.
(1 John 2:27)
- D. You must apply the passage to your life.
 - 1. Ask questions.
 - a. Do I need to change my life or behavior?
 - b. Can this passage relate to something I am facing in my life?
 - 2. Meditate on the meaning and purpose of the passage.
(Joshua 1:8)
- E. You must live what you have learned.
(James 1:22)

VI. What are the main themes of the Bible?

- A. To reveal who God is
- B. To reveal consequences for the sinfulness of man
- C. To reveal the rewards for faith and obedience
- D. To reveal Jesus Christ, the sacrifice for sin, and how that sacrifice applies to our life
- E. To reveal the realities of life after death

Review

1. The Word of God is the Christian's _____ booklet on living _____.
2. How many books are in the Old Testament?
3. How many books are in the New Testament?
4. How can a Christian get to know God?
5. Explain the difference between revelation and inspiration.
6. The Bible does not _____ the words of God, but _____ the words of God.
7. Are all words of scripture inspired (give a scripture reference to support)?
8. Since the time God used men to write the Bible, has He preserved His Word down through the ages without the loss of any material (give a scripture reference to support)?
9. List four purposes of scripture.
10. List three reasons why you should study the Bible?
11. Name the five ways you should study the Bible.
12. List five main themes of the Bible.
13. Briefly describe the purpose of this lesson.

False Teachings

Some churches, organizations, or groups are promoting the following false teachings:

- The Bible is just like any other book.
- The Bible contains mistakes and errors.