

**LESSON OVERVIEW**

**UNIT I**

Word Series

**LESSON 1**

An Introduction to the Bible

**LIFE ISSUE**

The Bible is the Word of God for our life.

**KEY VERSE**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

**BIBLE PASSAGES**

2 Peter 1:21; Psalm 19:9-11; Hebrews 4:12

**TEACHING AIM**

To understand how the Bible is organized, and why we can trust it as the Word of God.

**OUTLINE**

The Greatest Book Ever Written  
From One Comes Many  
How is the Bible Organized?  
How the Bible is Inspirational

**LIFE APPLICATION**

How Will You Use the Bible?

## LESSON 1 AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

**Life issue:** The Bible is the word of God for our life.

**Key verse:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

**Bible passages:** 2 Peter 1:21; Psalm 19:9-11; Hebrews 4:12

**Teaching aim:** To understand how the Bible is organized, and why we can trust it as the word of God.

### THE GREATEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN

The Bible is the most influential book of all time. Abraham Lincoln said about the Bible, "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this Book." It has been estimated that over 6 billion copies of the Bible have been printed, making it by far the best selling book of all time. In fact, the very first book to be printed on a printing press was the Bible! The Bible is the most studied and revered book of all time. It is also the most attacked book by unbelievers. Christians must understand the Bible in order to live by it and tell the world about it.

### FROM ONE COMES MANY

The word "bible" comes from the Greek word *biblia* which means "books." Note that *biblia* is a plural word. Many people incorrectly think of the Bible as one book. The Bible is more accurately thought of as a library of 66 books. The Bible you bring to church is really a mini-library! Did you know that over 40 authors wrote the books that are in the Bible? All these authors came from different walks of life – kings, shepherds, peasants, fishermen, and government officials. They wrote these books in a time span of over 1500 years from 3 different continents – Africa, Asia, and Europe – guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit. It has been translated into thousands of languages.

### HOW IS THE BIBLE ORGANIZED?

It's helpful to understand the organization of the Bible by giving you a map in your minds. It is quite easy to remember by using the phrase "2 parts then 4 parts." First, the Bible is divided into 2 parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament describes creation, history, laws of the nation Israel, and prophecies about the birth and life of Jesus Christ. The New Testament describes the life and teachings of Jesus and fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament. The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language and the New Testament was written in the Greek language. The Old and New Testaments are divided into four parts:

The Old Testament:

1. **Law:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
2. **History:** Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
3. **Wisdom and Poetry:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
4. **Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

The New Testament:

1. **Gospels:** Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
2. **History:** Acts
3. **Epistles (means letters):** Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude
4. **Apocalyptic (means prophecy about end times):** Revelation

Two Parts	Four Parts	Number of books	Language written in	Main topic
Old Testament	1. Law 2. History 3. Wisdom and poetry 4. Prophets	39	Hebrew	History of Israel
New Testament	1. Gospels 2. History 3. Epistles 4. Apocalyptic	27	Greek	Life and teachings of Jesus

**HOW THE BIBLE IS INSPIRATIONAL**

Now that we have looked at the organization of the Bible, let’s ask – “Why is it this way?” After all, it seems rather complicated having 40 different people write the Bible rather than just one person. So why did God do it this way? It’s very important to understand this point, because that is what makes Christianity different from other religions and the Bible different from other religious books.

Sometimes we hear things from our teachers or friends that were found to be incorrect later on. But how did you find out they were wrong? By checking other sources like the newspapers, books, and teachers or parents. Religious books of Islam, Mormonism, or Buddhism were each written by one man and cannot be proven to be true. However, the Bible can be trusted as the inspired Word of God because it is a collection of 66 books written by over 40 different people. We know that it is from God, because so many people from different backgrounds have given us the same message. This is why the Bible is so unique and powerful.

Do any of you have a penny in your pocket? Look at the “tail” side and read the inscription above the building. What does it say? “E pluribus unum.” It means “Out of many, one.” This slogan of America can also be applied to the Bible: out of the many books, one message.

Thus we see that when the apostles preach or write, they often quote prophets to confirm their teaching. This is because of the beautiful unity of the Bible. We will see in another lesson that not only are the authors of the Bible in agreement, but they each wrote books without a single error. Some of these authors also performed miracles to prove that their teaching was from God.

**LIFE APPLICATION: HOW WILL YOU USE THE BIBLE?**

We should thank God that He has given us the Bible to guide our lives. It is truly the most amazing book in history, giving us complete confidence in our faith. But rather than just marvel at the Bible, the real question is “What will you do with it?” It is good to know that a book is important, but it is more important to know the book. True followers of God study it, memorize it, and put it into

practice. Let's see what Moses said to do with the commandments of the Bible: Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Impress them on your children (Deuteronomy 6:7). There are specific benefits of knowing and following the Bible:

- Reading - To be informed
- Learning - To be instructed
- Meditating - To be inspired
- Understanding - To be wise
- Obedying - To be blessed

Real followers of God study the Bible diligently, not just as part of Sunday school or church, but on their own. They ask questions about it and meditate on it. The Bible should be studied as a group and individually – neither way alone is truly effective. Finally, one of the best ways to judge your faith is to see how much time you spend studying the Bible, without anyone telling you or even knowing that you are doing it. How well do you pass this test?

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Scripture Memory:**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

**Review Questions:**

1) Look up each of the following verses and write beside it different ways the Bible refers to itself.

For example, in 2 Timothy 3:16, the Bible is referred to as the "Scripture"

a) Jeremiah 1:4	
b) Hebrews 13:7	
c) Colossians 3:16	
d) Matthew 11:13	
e) 1 John 5:9	
f) Deuteronomy 5:22	

2) Try to classify the following books of the Bible using the "2 parts then 4 parts" rule. Try to do this without looking back at the previous list. The choices are:

- a) Old Testament - Law
- b) Old Testament - History
- c) Old Testament - Wisdom and Poetry
- d) Old Testament - Prophets
- e) New Testament - Gospels
- f) New Testament - History
- g) New Testament - Epistles
- h) New Testament - Apocalyptic

Beside each of the books below, write down the letter (a,b,c ...) corresponding to the part to which it belongs:

Matthew	
Acts	
Esther	
Jeremiah	
Leviticus	
Proverbs	
Revelation	
Romans	

3) Write three different ways to make these teachings practical in your life. Spend a few minutes in prayer about studying His Word.

