

Dear Teacher,

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, his son in the faith: “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:1-3).

I want to give you this same word of encouragement and let you know how grateful we are to God for your partnership as together we nurture and help the church grow. As we move through the study I want you to be asking yourself and your group the following questions:

- What does the Word of God say?
- What does this passage mean?
- What does this passage mean to me? How can I apply God’s eternal principles to my life today?

If you have these three questions in mind and search for their answers, then this course will be truly fruitful and profitable in your life. I trust that as we study Genesis and Exodus and then as you teach it, you will grow in the knowledge of God and in your relationship with His Son, Christ Jesus, as you come to better understand His plan for the world and you. The thoughts and ideas given in this introduction are to help you be more effective in your study and teaching.

It is my prayer that the experience of this study will be a defining moment in your spiritual life and will lay a strong foundation for continued growth in your life and in the lives of those you will be teaching.

Praying for His blessing upon you,

Dick Woodward
Pastor and author of the Mini Bible College

Leading the Bible Study Group

The Mini Bible College has prepared this devotionally practical survey of the foundational books of the Bible. Your role as teacher is to guide your group through the study sessions and exercises, helping them to understand the concepts, discover the eternal principles and, most importantly, apply them to their lives. This is a survey study that will take almost four months and is designed to be more than just a course. This study is part of a strategic plan to provide you with the tools to nurture and grow your church both spiritually and numerically.

To help you we have provided the following tools:

- The Leader's Guide
- A Targeted Media Approach (TMA) manual
- Report forms
- Audio of Genesis and Exodus
- A study booklet on Genesis and Exodus
- A Set of 10 workbook

This Leader's Guide is designed to equip you for this task.

GETTING STARTED

Before Class

- “ ‘Go to the street corners and **invite to the banquet anyone you find.**’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.” (Matthew 22:9-10). Start now to personally invite people to come to this spiritual banquet.
- Prepare yourself in prayer for those who will attend. If possible, pray for them by name. Only God can change the hearts of people, and prayer is the most powerful tool. “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that **they should always pray and not give up**” (Luke 18:1).
- Ask for help. Do not try to do everything yourself. Invite one or two individuals to help with music, singing, greeting, and keeping records for the class.
- Review the lesson and understand the lesson objective.
- Become familiar with the material; listen, read and study each lesson and memorize the Bible verse before class time.
- Be sure all materials are ready for each class.
- Make sure the meeting area is adequate and comfortable for the class.

During Class

- Greet everyone as they arrive. (Remember how nice it is when you are welcomed? Extend God's welcome to all.) It is important to have someone to serve as the greeter.
- Introduce people to one another if they are not already acquainted.
- Open with a time of worship and prayer, asking God to help you and each one understand and apply the lesson to your lives.

- Listen to the audio lesson.
- Work through the workbook, inviting discussion with a focus on application. We trust the questions will raise interesting discussion and understanding that will lead to application. If the group is too large, consider dividing it into smaller groups of three to five people to encourage discussion. Be sure to monitor the time and be careful that the conversation does not detract from the focus of the lesson and the study of God's Word.
- Thank all for coming and encourage attendance to the next class.
- Challenge the students to invite others to join the Bible study.
- Encourage the students to memorize the biblical passages of the lessons each week.

After Class

- Gather up all materials.
- Restore the meeting room to the proper order. Leave things more orderly than you found them.
- Fill out and file report forms.
- If you are meeting in someone's home, be sure to thank them for their hospitality.

Special Instructions for Teaching the Auditory Learners

It is important to remember that those who cannot read and write learn and retain information differently than those of us who are literate. The auditory learners learn from listening and telling what they have heard. Illiteracy was not an obstacle in Jesus' day. It is helpful to remember and even tell those in your class that most of the disciples and the majority of the people who first shared and spread the Gospel were not literate.

In many ways, auditory learners have a greater capacity to learn what they hear than we who must write something down to remember it. Thus, take the time to allow your students to hear the Scripture and the lessons, pausing the message and even going back to listen again to a portion if it was not understood, and then allow them to respond to questions. When auditory learners can "story back" – tell in their own words what they have heard and learned – it indicates that they have properly grasped the principle. Therefore, use the study questions to guide the study time as it will help in the learning process. Ask the questions out loud and encourage all to participate and this will lead them into a deeper understanding of God's Word and a stronger relationship with His Son, Jesus the Christ.

What is the Bible?

Chapter 1

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson one



Objective: To understand what the Bible is and how it is organized.



The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.

—2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Holy Bible is actually a collection of books – sixty-six of them. The word “Bible” comes from the Latin word for “books,” and the word “holy” means “that which belongs to God” or “that which comes from God.” So the Holy Bible is literally a collection of books coming from God.

About forty men wrote the books of the Bible over a period of 1,500 years. They assure us that these are the words of God Himself, inspired by His Spirit and penned by human beings. The writers were “carried” by the Spirit as a boat is carried by the tide or the wind in its sails.

The sixty-six books of the Bible are arranged by type and message. The two main divisions are Old Testament and New Testament. The message of the Old Testament is Jesus is coming; will you believe in Him? The message of the New Testament is Jesus came; will you trust Him? The Old Testament tells how, through the coming of the redeemer, God will reconcile the “divorce” – the spiritual separation - between God and His creatures. The New Testament tells us how God reconciled the divorce: Jesus came and we must believe in Him and trust Him for our sins to be eternally forgiven and our relationship with a Holy God to be reconciled.

The Old Testament has five kinds of books: five books of Law, twelve books of History, five books of Poetry, four Major Prophets (one of them wrote two books), and twelve Minor Prophets.

The New Testament also has five kinds of books: four biographies of Jesus (the Gospels), one history book (Acts), thirteen epistles of Paul, eight general epistles, and one book of prophecy (Revelation).



The Bible

Choose one best answer unless instructed otherwise.

1. What do we mean when we call the Bible “holy”?
 - a. Only holy people should read it.
 - b. It comes from God.**
 - c. It is too hard to understand.
 - d. Everyone who wrote it was perfect.
2. What does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 say about the Bible?
 - a. It is inspired by God.
 - b. It is useful for correction.
 - c. It teaches us righteousness.
 - d. It equips us for good works.
 - e. All of the above.**
3. When people wrote the books of the Bible, where did their thoughts come from?
 - a. Their own creativity and understanding.
 - b. Tradition.
 - c. They did a lot of study research.
 - d. They were “carried” by the Holy Spirit of God. He breathed His thoughts into them.**
4. **True** or false? Jesus is the living Word of God, and the Bible is the written Word of God.

The Old Testament

The Old Testament tells us how human beings rebelled (sinned) and why there is separation between God and us – all mankind. The divorce between God and men is the fundamental problem with which all of Scripture deals. The primary message of the Old Testament is Jesus is coming to reconcile us to God.

Law	History	Poetry	Prophecy
Genesis	Joshua	Job	<i>Major Prophets</i>
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Isaiah
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Jeremiah
Numbers	1 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Lamentations
Deuteronomy	2 Samuel	Song of Solomon	Ezekiel
	1 King		Daniel
	2 King		<i>Minor Prophets</i>
	1 Chronicles		Hosea
	2 Chronicles		Joel
	Ezra		Amos
	Nehemiah		Obadiah
	Esther		Jonah
			Micah
			Nahum
			Habakkuk
			Zephaniah
			Haggai
			Zechariah
			Malachi

5. True or **false**? The Old Testament is arranged chronologically – arranged in the order they were written.

6. **True** or false? The Old Testament books are divided into five different categories.

7. **True** or false? The main difference between the Major Prophets and the Minor Prophets is the length of their writings.

8. Draw a line from each of the following categories to the corresponding number of books it has:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------|
| a. Law | → | i. 5 |
| b. History | → | ii. 5 |
| c. Poetry | → | iii. 5 |
| d. Major Prophets | → | iv. 12 |
| e. Minor Prophets | → | v. 12 |

9. In which type of book did God first tell His people the difference between right and wrong? **LAW**
(**L**aw, **H**istory, **P**oetry, **M**ajor Prophets, **M**inor Prophets)

10. The primary message of the Old Testament is
- Man needs to obey God’s laws and live a perfect life to be acceptable to a perfect God.
 - God is love and will bless all men.
 - Jesus is coming, and He is going to reconcile the separation between God and His creatures.**
 - Not important. Only the New Testament is important.

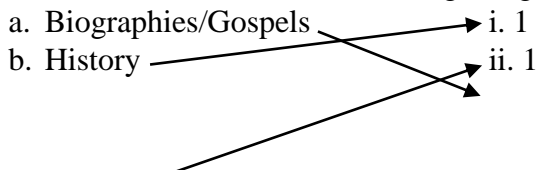
The New Testament

The New Testament tells us of the life of Jesus – His miracles, His teachings, and His crucifixion and resurrection. It also tells us how the Holy Spirit came into the lives of believers and what the early church was like. More than half of the New Testament consists of letters written to churches established after the Resurrection. Most of these letters were written by Paul.

<u>History</u>	<u>Pauline Letters</u>	<u>General Letters</u>	<u>Prophecy</u>
Matthew	Romans	Hebrews	Revelation
Mark	1 Corinthians	James	
Luke	2 Corinthians	1 Peter	
John	Galatians	2 Peter	
Acts	Ephesians	1 John	
	Philippians	2 John	
	Colossians	3 John	
	1 Thessalonians	Jude	
	2 Thessalonians		
	1 Timothy		
	2 Timothy		
	Titus		
	Philemon		

11. **True** or false? The primary message of the New Testament is that Jesus came.
12. True or **false**? The New Testament is the only part of the Bible about Jesus.
13. **True** or false? Biographies of Jesus in the Bible are called “Gospels.”

14. Draw a line from each of the following categories to the corresponding number of books it has:



- c. Letters of Paul
 - d. General letters
 - e. Prophecy
- iii. 4
iv. 8
v. 13

15. In which type of book is the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection found? Gospels
(Gospels, History, Letters of Paul, General letters, Prophecy)



In the message we heard, what story do the Old and New Testaments have in common? What does this tell you about the importance of this subject? Why is the study of this subject important to you?



Praise God for His Word and ask Him how to know and love Him more by studying His Word. Ask Him to help you understand what it says, what it means, and how to apply His Word to your life each day.



Going Deeper

1. Based on what Paul wrote to Timothy, what are some of the objectives of the Word of God?

2. How should the objectives in question #1 impact the way we value applying what we find in the Bible? _____

3. What kind of truth should we expect to find in the Bible? (Discuss John 17:17; 7:17) _____

4. When we find truth in the Bible, how important is it that we should know what to do with it? Why?

5. What is your own personal definition of inspiration as it applies to the Word of God? _____

6. How should you expect the Word of God be changing your life as you read it? _____

7. Is the purpose of God's Word to bless us or to make us a blessing? Explain. _____

8. What is the fundamental problem addressed by the Old Testament? _____

9. What is the Old Testament really all about? (Can you answer in three words?) _____

10. How should we approach the five different kinds of books in the Old Testament? _____

11. Why should we study Hebrew history? (Discuss 1 Corinthians 10:11) _____

12. Is there any history in the Law Books? Explain. _____

13. Imagine a nation with no laws at all. Describe what it would be like. _____

14. When you go to church, would you rather hear a Major or a Minor prophet? Why? Explain how they differ and how they are alike. _____

15. In two words, what is the New Testament really all about? _____

16. Why are the first four books of the New Testament called “Gospels”? In what ways are they more than biographies? _____

17. In what ways are the Letters of Paul different from the General Letters? _____

18. How does the book of Acts prepare us for our study of the New Testament letters? _____

19. Just as there is history in the Law Books, you will find history in the Gospels, the letters, and in Revelation. Should we approach these historical passages as we are instructed to approach history in the Old Testament? (1 Corinthians 10:11) Why or why not? _____

20. What is a key that Jesus gave us to all of the Scriptures? (Discuss John 5:39, 40) _____

21. What are the five kinds of books that are found in the New Testament? _____
