Foundations

Introduction - Session 6: What is the Bible?

God, who is holy and just, wants all of humanity to have a right relationship with Him. He has provided the way of salvation from death and sin through the person and work of God the Son, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is fully God just as Jesus is fully God. The chief goal of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus. The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as a Person, not an impersonal force or energy.

The Holy Spirit has a three fold relationship with the believer as represented by three Greek prepositions – 'para', 'en,' and 'epi.'

The "with you" or 'para' ministry of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 8-11).
- After conversion, the Holy Spirit continues to dwell with a believer (John 16:8-10).

The "in you" or 'en' ministry of the Holy Spirit

- The moment a person chooses to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in that person.
- The Holy Spirit conforms us into the image of Christ and helps us in the sanctification process.

The "upon" or 'epi' ministry of the Holy Spirit

- There is a third ministry of the Holy Spirit called the baptism of the Spirit or the filling of the Spirit.
- This third ministry provides objective evidence of the dynamic power of the Holy Spirt in the life of a believer to be an effective witness of Jesus Christ.

Although the Bible teaches that there is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4, 1 Corinthians 8:6, 1 Timothy 2:5), it also teaches that God is three Persons. One proof of the Trinity is that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are each fully God with attributes that are unique to God only.

Now that we know who God is – God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit – how do I get to know God better? God has revealed Himself through the Bible.

In this session, we discuss the importance and reliability of the Bible.

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Explain introductory facts about the Bible
- State the importance of the Bible
- Discuss evidence that supports the reliability of the Bible

1. Answer the following questions about the Bible?

How many books are in the Bible?

How many books are in the Old Testament?

How many books are in the New Testament?

How many people did God involve to write the Bible?

What languages were used in the original writings of the Bible?

2. What version of the Bible do you use? Why?

3. How do the following verses describe the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:20-21

4. How do the following verses describe the importance of the Bible?

Psalm 119:105

Matthew 24:35

Hebrews 4:12

5. What promises are contained in the following verses?

Psalm 23:1

Matthew 6:33

2 Peter 3:9

6. What promise from the Bible has been most helpful to you?

7. Read Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1. What was the prophesy in Micah 5:2 and how was it fulfilled in Matthew 2:1? How does fulfilled prophesy support the reliability of the Bible?

8. Based on the class session, notes, and your personal study, what has encouraged or challenged you from this session?

Additional Resources:

Food For Faith by Dr. Richard A. Bennett

The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel

Evidence That Demands A Verdict by Josh McDowell

Devotional Recommendations:

Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest - https://utmost.org

Our Daily Bread - https://odb.org

Blue Letter Bible - Bible App with Devotionals