



Session 6: What is the Bible?

Session Questions

Session 6 Questions:

- What is the Bible?
- Why is the Bible important?
- Is the Bible reliable?

Question Review

- Review answers from Participant Guide Session 6: What is the Bible?

Section 1: What is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of books that are uniquely inspired by God.

66 books

40+ authors

3 languages:

- Hebrew – mainly Old Testament
- Greek - mainly New Testament
- Aramaic – some Old Testament verses & New Testament phrases

1 consistent message

Section 1: What is the Bible?

Old Testament

5 Books of the Law – Genesis to Deuteronomy

12 Books of Israel's History – Joshua to Esther

5 Books of Wisdom and Poetry – Job to Song of Solomon

5 Major Prophets

12 Minor Prophets

New Testament

5 Books of History – Matthew to Acts

21 Epistles – Romans to Jude

1 Prophecy – Revelation

Section 1: What is the Bible?

Why are there so many different types of Bibles?

- **Formal equivalence** – word-for-word translation – King James Version (KJV), New King James Version (NKJV)
- **Dynamic equivalence** – sense-for-sense translation – New English Bible (NEB), Contemporary English Version (CEV)
- **Optimal equivalence** – uses both formal and dynamic equivalence – New International Version (NIV), New Living Translation (NLT)
- **Paraphrase** - “in your own words” – The Message, Living Bible

Section 1: What is the Bible?

What are some different types of Bibles?

- **Study Bible**
- **Themed Bible**
- **Parallel Bible**

Section 2: Why is the Bible important?

- **Divinely inspired** – 2 Timothy 3:16
- **Absolutely trustworthy** – Matthew 5:18
- **Powerful influencer** – Hebrews 4:12
- **Food for the soul** - Psalm 119:103
- **Light of life** – Psalm 119:105
- **Provides moral guidance** – Exodus 20:1-17

Section 2: Why is the Bible important?

What is personal quiet time?

- **Daily time alone with God's word**

- Mark 1:35 – Jesus had time alone with God

- **God wants to meet with you**

- James 4:8

- **Guidelines for Quiet Time**

- Choose a consistent time
- Choose a consistent place
- Choose a method

Section 2: Why is the Bible important?

Questions to consider during quiet time:

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a new truth or lesson to learn?

Section 2: Why is the Bible important?

How can I study the Bible?

- **By book**
- **By character or person**
- **By topic or theme**
- **By inductive study method**
 - **Observation** - What are the basic facts of this passage?
 - **Interpretation** - What did the author mean in his own historical context?
 - **Evaluation** - What does this passage mean in today's culture?
 - **Application** - How can I apply what I have learned to how I live my life?
- **Listen to “How To Study The Bible” series under Media -> Sermon Archive**

Section 3: Is the Bible reliable?

Eyewitness Evidence:

- **The Gospels could be validated by the reader**
 - **Written 40-70 years after Jesus' death**
 - **Eyewitnesses were named to verify authenticity**

Section 3: Is the Bible reliable?

Documentation evidence

The quantity of New Testament manuscripts is much greater than other ancient writings.

Ancient Writing	Number of Manuscripts
New Testament	>24,000
Homer's Iliad	~650

The gap of time between the original writings and known copies is shorter with the New Testament.

Ancient Writing	Original Writing	Earliest Manuscript
New Testament	40-100 A.D.	125 A.D.
Homer's Iliad	900 B.C.	400 B.C.

*Information from "Case for Christ" and "Evidence That Demands A Verdict."

Additional Resources

Additional Reading:

- **Food for Faith – Dr. Richard Bennett**
- **The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel**
- **Evidence That Demands A Verdict (Vol. I & II) by Josh McDowell**

Devotionals:

- **Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest**
- **Our Daily Bread**
- **Blue Letter Bible - Bible Apps with Devotionals**

***Some of these resources may be online for free**

Reflections & Wrap Up

- The Bible is a collection of books that are uniquely inspired by God.
- The Bible is divinely inspired, absolutely trustworthy.
- The Bible is reliable because eyewitness and documentation evidence.
- Next session is **Monday, October 23 at 6:30 PM** in Room 4.
- Questions for next session:
Participant Guide Session 7: What is the Church?
- **Thank you!**