

# SESSION 1: BIBLE OVERVIEW

## LEADER GUIDE

### Introductory Exercises and Prayer

Conduct any or all of the **Opening Exercises**:

1. Class leader **introduce yourself** and share a little bit about your own journey with Trinity Baptist Church, the areas you've served in and a brief testimony of how God has used this church to strengthen your walk with Christ and effectiveness in serving Him
2. If there are any new class members joining in for this session who were not in the most recent Discovering Life at Trinity Part 1, do a **getting acquainted exercise** to open the class. (Consider asking if one or two of them would be willing to share about their experience taking Part 1. Anything you learned or any reflections they have to share after those two sessions?)
3. Introduce the **purpose of the next two sessions**: To introduce to prospective members and new Christians some basics about the Bible to help in their journey of respecting and using the Bible as God's primary tool of spiritual growth. (Consider sharing a bit about your own journey of becoming comfortable with the Bible, understanding the big picture and growing in respect for it.)

**Prayer Exercise:** Open with prayer by thanking the Lord for the class members and the privilege of having the scriptures in our own native tongue, for us to hear and discover who God is and how we can know Him.

**Discussion Question:** At each table have participants share and discuss the following:  
What has been one of your biggest blessings/challenges related to the Bible?

Before starting Question 1, explain to participants what a prophet/prophecy was understood as by the original audience of the scriptures. [**A prophet was a man through whom God would speak to His people, whether by spoken word or written word.** The original audience equated prophecy with Scripture. Not all prophecy was written, but all Scripture was prophecy. Therefore the Bible (Scripture) is prophecy which had been written. ]  
(Roots Deuteronomy 18:15, Exodus 20:19)

## Question 1: Authorship - Who Wrote the Bible?

(Assign each table one of the following passages to read together and report to the whole group.)

### Scripture Exercise 1: 2 Peter 1:19-21

So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no **prophecy of Scripture** is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.** NAS

Who does Peter say the joint contributors are? " Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

### Scripture Exercise 2: 2 Tim 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. NIV

To what would Paul have been referring by the phrase "All Scripture" at the time he wrote this letter to Timothy? Old Testament

To whom does Paul give credit for "All Scripture?" God

### Scripture Exercise 3: Heb 1:1-3

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. NASU

According to the author of Hebrews, through whom did God speak to the fathers? Prophets How? Many portions and in many ways

**Video Exercise:** Play and watch Video Clip "**Can We Trust the Bible Clip 1**"

Note: For a list of other verses of scripture that add to the weight and consistency of the above, see the **Appendix on Page 5.**

## Question 2: What is the central message of the bible?

(Assign each table one of the following passages to read together and report to the whole group.)

**Scripture Exercise 1: John 5:37-41** "And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. 38 "You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. 39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. NASU

Context Note: Jesus is speaking to people who know the scriptures but who have missed the central message of the scriptures. They think that by trying to obey and follow the scriptures' teaching that they accomplish their own salvation. In this passage he is trying to help them see what the scriptures are all about.

Identify what Jesus says God's ultimate purpose of the scriptures is. \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture Exercise 2: 2 Tim 3:14-15** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known *the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Remembering that by referring to "the holy Scriptures" Paul is talking about what we now know as the Old Testament, what does he seem to say is the overarching aim?

---

**Scripture Exercise 3: Luke 24:25**

## Question 3: What is so amazing about the Bible? (Unshakable Video Clip 1- 4 minutes)

Play video clip and ask participants to listen carefully and try to fill as many blanks as they can and then have them help each other with what they missed. Leader Note: There is some overlap between this clip and the previous one played as a part of Question 2.

**What is the most popular and best selling book of all time? Bible**

**How many complete copies/manuscripts of the NT are available and how far back do the oldest ones date? 5,600 copies dating back to 130 AD**

**How many archeological discoveries have been made which prove the bible to be inaccurate? 0**

**How many books are there in the bible? 66**

**How many years span were the books of the bible written over? 1500 yrs**

**How many different authors? about 40**

**How many different languages? 3**

**What is the primary evidence that God is the author of the bible? absolute harmony**

## Question 4: What is the makeup of the Bible?

Have participants look over the organization of the books of the bible and explain that one of the things that confuses many contemporary readers of the bible is that the compilation of books which make up the bible are not in chronological order, and they are not all of the same genre. So we are going to give a little time to understanding the makeup of the bible and how the books are arranged.

### Law of Moses

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

### Historical Narratives

6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther

### Wisdom Literature

18. Job
19. Psalms
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Songs

### Major Prophets

23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel

### Minor Prophets

28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

### NT Gospel Narratives

40. Matthew
41. Mark
42. Luke
43. John
44. Acts

### Church Epistles by Paul

45. Romans
46. 1 Corinthians
47. 2 Corinthians
48. Galatians
49. Ephesians
50. Philippians
51. Colossians
52. 1 Thessalonians
53. 2 Thessalonians

(books are ordered by length)

### Pastoral Epistles

54. 1 Timothy
55. 2 Timothy
56. Titus
57. Philemon

### General Epistles

58. Hebrews
59. James
60. 1 Peter
61. 2 Peter
62. 1 John
63. 2 John
64. 3 John
65. Jude

### Apocalyptic Epistle by John

66. Revelation

Helpful Notes: Book order is determined by genre groupings not by date written or the time period of the events within the book. Gen – Deut are in Chronological order for example but Job quite likely the oldest of all the books. In the OT Historical narratives Chronicles covers the same content and time and people as 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings. Paul's epistles are grouped and ordered by genre 1<sup>st</sup> and length second.

**BONUS Question 5: How reliable is the Bible?**

(Conclude class by watching as much of the **"Can We Trust the Bible Clip 2"** video as you can.

**(Personal Notes)**

## Appendix

### Scripture Verses for Question 1

**2 Sam 23:1-2** These are the last words of David: "The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, Israel's singer of songs: 2 "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. NIV

**Luke 1:69-70** He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), .... (followed by a quote of Psalm 106:10) NIV

**Mark 12:36** David himself, speaking *by the Holy Spirit, declared*: "'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." ' NIV (Quote from the psalms)

**Acts 1:16**"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled *which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David* concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus— NIV

**Acts 3:18-19** But this is how God fulfilled what *he had foretold through all the prophets*, saying that his Christ would suffer. NIV

**Acts 28:25-27** They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "*The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah* the prophet: ....

**Heb 10:15-16** *The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says*: 16 "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." (this quote is of an OT scripture.) NIV