



# Fundamentals - Class 2

## The Bible

### The Breakdown

1. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?
2. HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

## 1. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

### A) Fun Facts

- I. The Bible is made up of two testaments: The Old Testament (OT) and the New Testament (NT).
- II. The Bible was written in three languages: Hebrew (majority of OT), Aramaic (portions of Ezra & Daniel), and Greek (NT).
- III. In the original languages, the Bible is about 611,000 words long.
- IV. There are 66 total books in the Bible. *Jeremiah* is the longest and *3 John* is the shortest.
- V. There are over 450 English translations.
- VI. The Bible was written by men but inspired by God.

Testament	Category	Book of the Bible
OT	Law	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
	History	Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
	Poetry	Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
	Major Prophets	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
	Minor Prophets	Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
NT	Gospels	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
	History	Acts
	Epistles to Churches	Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians
	Epistles to Friends	1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
	General Epistles	Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation

### B) Reliability

#### Dependable

We do not have the original writings of Scripture. But we do have more than 5,000 copies, some of which are close in date to the original writings. Princeton Theological Seminary's Bruce Metzger is an internationally renowned textual critic, Bible scholar, and Biblical translator. He has concluded that after 2,000 years of being copied, only 40 of the 20,000 lines of the NT are debatable. Most notably, none of these differences affect the basic tenants of the Christian faith. Our Bibles today are more credible than any other historical document of ancient times.

## Consistent

Biblical writings were composed by roughly 40 authors over a period of 1,500 years. Even so, it is really one book revealing a powerful story and maintaining a consistent message from cover to cover. The “Rose Guide to Discipleship” states three compelling points:

- *Throughout its pages, the Bible champions belief in one God in times and regions where polytheism (belief in many gods) was the norm.*
- *The Old Testament foreshadows the New Testament, the New completes the story of the Old.*
- *From start to finish, the Bible calls people to live by faith in God’s grace, whereas every other religion depicts humans working to earn God’s favor.*

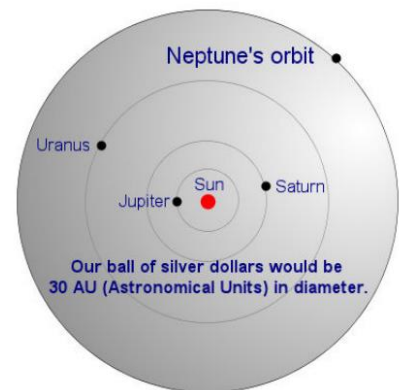
## Proven

Thousands of prophecies are made throughout the Bible. Over three hundred of those prophecies were made about Jesus in the Old Testament alone, in supernaturally precise detail. Every single one of these prophecies about the coming of Jesus were fulfilled to the finest detail.

Mathematics & Astronomy Professor Peter W. Stoner has provided powerful illustrations showing the validity of the scriptures as well as evidence that Jesus is indeed the Messiah.

Imagine we pressed 1,000 (10<sup>45</sup>) silver dollars into a ball. Then we placed the center of this ball right where the center of our Sun is. This silver ball's outer edge would be in approximately the same area as the orbit of Neptune (almost to Pluto.). That is a massive diameter!

Jesus fulfilling just 16 of the 300+ prophecies by sheer chance would be like launching a blind-folded astronaut to outer space on a mission to find *one specific silver dollar that has been marked* and has been mixed up somewhere in this huge ball and actually finding it the first time! (See picture)



**Discussion question:** what makes the Bible different than other books?

**Answer:** discuss.

**Hebrews 4:12** *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (NKJV)

## C) Divinely Inspired

God gave men divine inspiration to transcribe the Scriptures. This is not to be confused with the kind of inspiration an artist receives. An artist gets inspired within themselves (internally) from an idea of some kind. The authors of the books of the Bible were not inspired in and of themselves but rather they were inspired by the Holy Spirit coming upon them (externally).



**2 Timothy 3:16-17** *“16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”* (NLT)

## D) The Bible Is Alive

**John 1:1-3, 14**

*“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...*

*14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Have you ever done a DNA test (i.e., AncestryDNA, 23andMe, etc.)? These evaluate your DNA and ultimately tell you a deeper story about yourself. You learn more about who you are and what makes you, you. If you were to look at the DNA of Jesus Christ under a microscope, you would find the helix of His genetic makeup as being totally comprised of the Scriptures. Every single letter in the Bible reveals more of who Jesus is and what makes Him, Him.

**Discussion question:** reading the Bible produces different results than any other book. Why is that?

**Answer:** discuss...

## E) The Bible Is Also...

The Bible likens itself to several things as seen below:

<b>Milk</b>	Hebrews 5:12-14
<b>Bread</b>	John 6:51
<b>Gold &amp; Silver</b>	Psalm 12:6, Psalm 19:10
<b>A Fire</b>	Jeremiah 20:9, Luke 24:32
<b>A Hammer</b>	Jeremiah 23:29
<b>Honey</b>	Psalm 19:10
<b>A Lamp</b>	Psalm 119:105
<b>Meat</b>	Hebrews 5:12-14
<b>A Mirror</b>	James 1:23-25
<b>Seed</b>	Matthew 13:18-23
<b>A Sword</b>	Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12
<b>Water</b>	Ephesians 5:25-27

**Discussion question:** which of these stands out to you the most?

**Answer:** discuss.



## 2. HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

### A) Read it – Joshua 1:8 & Mark 13:31

Getting the Word of God inside of you is as important as any meal of the day. There is a reason it likens itself to bread, water, milk, and honey. You would not go weeks or days without eating food. Most people will not even go too many hours without a snack. Reading the Bible is equally as important. It nourishes our souls like nothing else can. If you are not sure where to start reading, begin in John and keep going.

### B) Study it – 2 Timothy 2:15

You will quickly notice that words jump off the page as you read them. This is the Holy Spirit wanting to reveal truth to you through the Bible. This leads to what is called *revelation*. When this happens, do not be in a hurry. Take the time to read and re-read as many times as you need to. The goal is not to get through several chapters. The goal is to get to know the Author. The same Holy Spirit who inspired the writings of the Scriptures also lives inside of you as a believer. Read slowly and savor every word that passes your eyes. Reading the Bible cover to cover is a great practice.

### C) Declare it – Isaiah 55:11

The Bible is full of powerful truths, principles, promises, warnings, prophecies, and more. As children of God, we have the right to declare scripture over our lives, families, homes, etc.

EXAMPLE SITUATION	VERSE TO DECLARE
WHEN YOU FEEL TEMPTED	1 Corinthians 10:13
IF YOU SIN	1 John 1:9
TO WIN OTHERS TO CHRIST	Isaiah 55:5
WHEN YOU ARE WORRIED	Matthew 6:33
IF YOU FEEL ANXIOUS	Philippians 4:6
EXPERIENCING BLESSING	Ephesians 1:3

### D) Meditate on it – Joshua 1:8 & Philippians 4:8

Biblical meditation is to think on a thought, principle, scripture, or truth until it becomes a part of you. Our actions almost always follow our thoughts. Meditating on the Word of God is a bulletproof strategy to live a fruitful life in Christ.

### E) Obey it – John 14:15 & James 1:22

The Bible clearly shows the path to abundant life in Christ. Whether we deviate from it or hold fast to it, we will experience the corresponding impacts. It would be to your advantage to obey God's Word if you want to experience life to its fullest.

### F) Reflecting it – Matthew 5:16 & 2 Corinthians 3:2

As we have already discussed, the Word of God is not just a textbook filled with information. It is the main life changing tool for every believer. As we read, study, declare, meditate, and obey the Word we will find ourselves reflecting the Word.



# Fundamentals - Class 2

## *The Bible – QUIZ*

*Directions: Answer the following multiple-choice questions using your notes and Bible.*

1. **True or False: The Bible was written by men and inspired by God.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
2. **How many books are in the Bible?**
  - a. 40
  - b. 77
  - c. 66
  
3. **What is the longest book in the Bible?**
  - a. Jeremiah
  - b. Psalms
  - c. Job
  
4. **What is the shortest book in the Bible?**
  - a. Jude
  - b. 3 John
  - c. Genesis
  
5. **How many copies of the Scriptures are there?**
  - a. 77
  - b. 5,000+
  - c. 7,372
  
6. **Circle which is a true statement:**
  - a. The Bible is *not* backed up by unbiased evidence
  - b. The Bible is *not* the best-selling book of all time
  - c. The Bible *is* the living, inspired, reliable Word of God
  
7. **How many Testaments are there?**
  - a. 1
  - b. 2
  - c. 3