

What is the Bible?

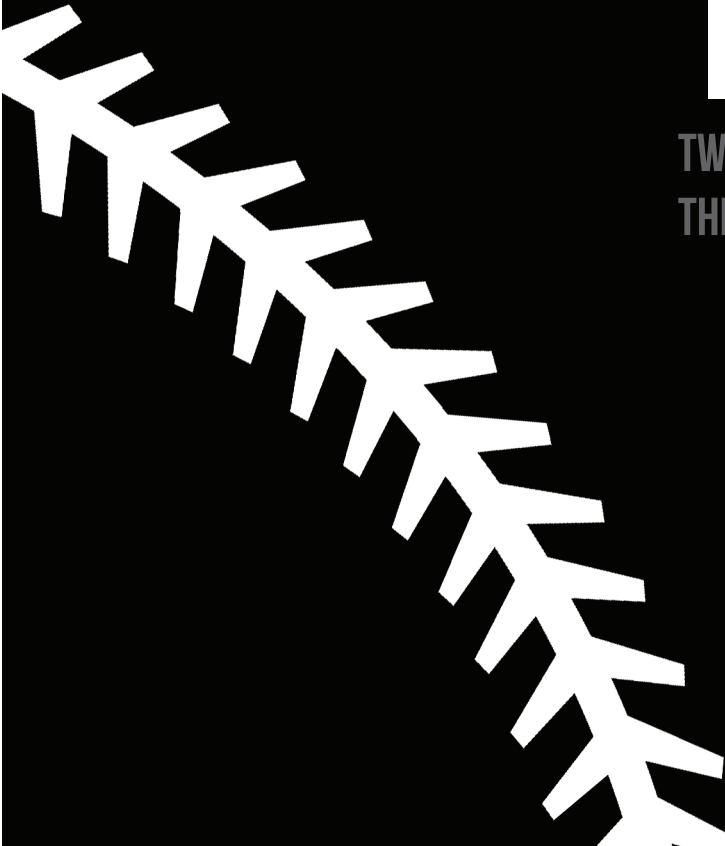
SESSION ONE: HOW WE KNOW

OBJECTIVES

- 1. God wants us to know Him, which is why He gave us the Bible.**
- 2. The Bible is the perfect resource for knowing God.**
- 3. The Bible is completely inspired by God.**

TWO: TAKING OFF THE TARP

THREE: PUT IT IN PLAY



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We are all familiar with this saying: “practice makes perfect”. However, anyone who has ever drawn interest to the game of baseball knows that perfection is impossible in this sport. Yet, each of us has put in the time and effort to practice baseball, knowing we will never fully master all the skills in this game. None the less, you continue to do it for the love of baseball.

Think back to how far you’ve come in your practice or knowledge of baseball. Write down some thoughts.

What are some tools you use to grow as a baseball player?

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Our journey to becoming the baseball player we dream to be resembles our journey of coming to know God. We don't wake up one day, and suddenly have all the skills or knowledge needed to be successful in the game. Instead, we use the tools and equipment necessary to slowly grow in maturity and understanding.

What do you believe are some primary tools God has given us to grow in our relationship with Him?

Similar to our illustration, God does not expect us to one day wake up and know Him perfectly. He did not create us to know every detail of His character or the way to have a relationship with Him on our own. Neither are we able to search and discover what we need to know about God. Just as we needed to be taught in order to play baseball, we need to be taught in order to know God. J. Gresham Machen (2020) says it this way:

“**It is simply this: that if we are really to know anything about God, it will probably be because God has chosen to tell it to us.**” (p.13).

Read Romans 1:17-20 & Psalm 19:1-4. What are the two ways God has revealed Himself to us?

God has revealed Himself to man in two distinct ways: through creation and through **“the gospel”**. Specifically, we are going to focus on the words God has

**The gospel:
The Good News of
Jesus' life, death, and
resurrection.**

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spoken to show His character to all of the world. All of these sayings are recorded in a book, called the Bible. The Bible comprises the story of who God is, how we should live and the plan He made for joining us together in relationship with Him.

There are numerous resources that detail the history of the Bible, but for our study, we are going to look at a “box score” view of God’s Word.

<p>Who wrote it?</p>	<p>The Bible was written under the inspiration of God’s Holy Spirit by over 40 different authors.</p>	<p>These authors carried a variety of primary occupations: shepherds, farmers, tent-makers, fisherman, priests, kings and philosophers.</p>
<p>How many books are in it?</p>	<p>There are a total of 66 books in the Bible divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.</p>	<p>Testament means “covenant” The New Testament holds 27 books. The Old Testament holds 39 books.</p>
<p>When was it written?</p>	<p>The Bible was written over a period of roughly 1500 years from around 1450 B.C. to about 100 A.D.</p>	<p>Additionally, the Bible was written across the span of three different continents.</p>
<p>What were the original languages?</p>	<p>The Bible was originally written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek</p>	<p>There are a total of roughly 7,000 languages in the world. Approximately 2,000 languages remain without a translation of the Bible.</p>
<p>Additional facts</p>	<p>The Bible was translated into English around the 1500s by the work of three key men: John Wycliffe, William Tyndale and John Rogers. Wycliffe took the Latin translation and began translating it into English, which was continued by Tyndale and was eventually completed by John Rogers. Tyndale and Rogers were martyred for their work.</p>	<p>At the time of this writing, there remain approximately 52 countries where the Bible is illegal or severely persecuted.</p>

What is the Bible?

What fact about the Bible do you find most interesting?