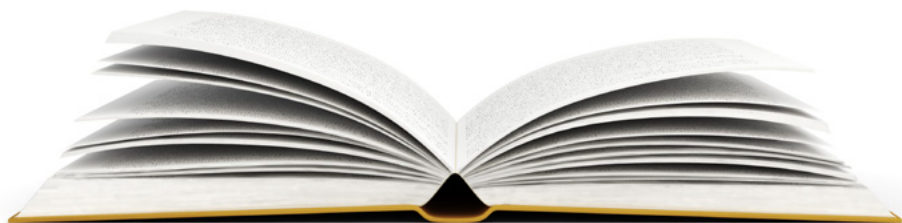


UnCOVERED

TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



- A BIBLE STUDY COURSE -

Handbook Version 1.1

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All Scriptures are New King James Version.

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INTRODUCTION

This Bible Study curriculum has been designed to be used as an outline for teaching an introductory course to the Bible. Each lesson has been written in a way that provides the teacher with the content needed to lead someone through the Bible while also allowing plenty of room for the teacher to expound.

Our objective in creating this curriculum is to provide believers of all levels of faith with a tool that they can use to teach a 30 to 40 minute Bible study with minimal preparation time. Our hope is that you find this curriculum easy to use and effective in bringing the gospel to those you've been called to reach.

Objectives:

- » To introduce people to Jesus Christ
- » To introduce people to the Bible
- » To direct people toward obeying the Gospel message

Tools Needed for Teacher:

- » Bible Study Chart
- » Teacher's Handbook
- » Bible

Tools Needed for Student:

- » Bible
- » Something to take notes

Teaching Tips:

- » Commit to beginning and ending each lesson with prayer.
- » Remember to review previous lesson with your student.
- » Encourage your student to further their discipleship at a local church.

LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?
LOST IN TRANSLATION?
SHOULD WE TRUST THE BIBLE?
BEGINNING TO READ THE BIBLE

CHART 1 - WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The word 'Bible' means books. The Bible is a collection of 66 writings or books, written by at least 40 different writers, covering approximately 4,000 years of human history.

Although there were many different writers, there was really only one author. That author was God.

» **READ: 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

The Bible is divided into two sections: Old Testament and New Testament.

Q. *Do you know what the word 'testament' means?*

A. *A testament is a covenant, or an agreement. In this case, testament refers to the covenant God made with His people.*

Both the Old and New Testaments have also been divided into sections for clarity.

Old Testament: 39 books —> 5 sections

1. The Law
2. Historical Books
3. Poetic Books
4. Major Prophets
5. Minor Prophets

New Testament: 27 books —> 5 sections

1. The Gospels
2. Book of History
3. Letters from Paul
4. General Letters
5. Book of Prophecy

CHART 2 - LOST IN TRANSLATION?

Moses was the first to record and preserve God's divine handiwork. The Ten Commandments were to be stored in the Ark of the Covenant, while the remainder of the written law was to be kept alongside the Ark.

» **READ:** Deuteronomy 31:24-26

After Moses' death, his successor Joshua continued to record God's works among the Israelite people.

This process continued through the history of the nation of Israel. Eventually, professional scribes began to copy the law and store the copies in the Temple and later in synagogues.

SIDE NOTE: *Old Testament scribes followed strict guidelines when producing copies of the law and other Old Testament books.*

1. Every letter and every word of the original manuscript were counted. If the copy did not match the original count, it would be destroyed.
2. Every word had to be verbalized before written. No word could be written from memory.
3. Every copy had to be reviewed within thirty days of completion. If as many as three pages required corrections, the entire manuscript would be destroyed.

History of Translation (follow chart)

Side Note: *One piece of historical evidence that demonstrates the accuracy of later manuscripts is the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Dead Sea Scrolls are ancient writings found in caves near the Dead Sea. The writings were preserved in jars and discovered by shepherd boys in 1947. Within the Dead Sea Scrolls there was a complete copy of the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Although the copies were dated to be up to 1,900 years old, the copy of Isaiah paralleled our modern Old Testament in more than 95 percent of the text. The 5 percent difference had to do with spelling variations.*

CHART 3 - SHOULD WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

Although it does take a step of faith to conclude that God has divinely orchestrated the assembly of the Bible, there is plenty of evidence to support this claim.

1. The Bible answers the most important questions all people should ask themselves at some point in time.

- » How did I get here? READ: Genesis 1:1
- » Who am I? READ: Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:7
- » What should I do with my life? READ: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- » Is there something after this? READ: Matthew 25:46

2. It works.

- » Psalm 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul...”
- » 2 Timothy 3:15 “...the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation...”

SIDE NOTE: *If applicable, share your own personal testimony.*

3. It has and will continue to survive the times.

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

Q. *If the Bible really is the Word of God and has the power to save us from our sins, don't you think the devil would do anything he can to remove it? Has he tried?*

A. *Yes. He tries all the time. He has influenced governments and other institutions of many nations throughout history to ban the Bible from being read, taught, or even owned.*

CHART 4 - SHOULD WE TRUST THE BIBLE? (CONTINUED)

4. The Fulfillment of Prophecy

There are approximately 2,500 prophecies in the Bible. About 2,000 of them have already been fulfilled. (The remaining 500 reach into the future and are unfolding as time progresses.)

Some of these prophecies include precise details regarding future world powers, kings, and the future of the nation of Israel.

Some of the most convincing prophecies are the ones that were fulfilled in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Jesus' time on earth, He fulfilled over 300 prophecies Himself:

His Birthplace

- » Micah 5:2 - He would be born in Bethlehem.

His Manner of Birth

- » Isaiah 7:14 - He would be born of a virgin.

His Mission

- » Isaiah 61:1-3 - He would set the captives free from sin.

His Teaching Style

- » Psalm 78:2 - He would teach in parables.

His Rejection

- » Isaiah 53 - He would be despised and rejected by men.

His Death

- » Psalm 22:16-18 - His hands and feet would be pierced.

His Resurrection

- » Psalm 16:10-11 - His body would not be left to decay.

The fulfillment of prophecy is another reason we can trust the Bible to be the divinely inspired Word of God.

CHART 5 - BEGINNING TO READ THE BIBLE

1. Choosing the Right Bible

Within the English language, we can choose from a variety of modern Bible translations. While studying key doctrines of the Old and New Testaments, it is important to use as many tools as are available to fully understand what is being said. However, when it comes to your own personal daily Bible reading, it is most important that you select one translation that is both understandable and true to the original language.

By selecting a single translation to read from every day, you will be more inclined to memorize Scripture and become comfortable navigating through the books, chapters, and verses of the Bible.

When selecting a translation, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- » Find a translation that has understandable language.
- » Find a translation that is closer to a literal translation rather than a paraphrased translation.
- » Study Bibles include footnotes which can be helpful to contextualize history and language (not recommended for doctrine).
- » Reference Bibles are helpful for trying to connect verses with other verses.

2. Where to Begin Reading?

It's important for us to read the Bible every day. When starting to read through the Bible, there are many reading plans to choose from. Be sure to choose the reading plan that suits you best. Here are some possible examples of a Bible reading plan:

- » Start in the book of Genesis and read straight through the entire Bible, by number of chapters per day.
- » Read two chapters of the Old Testament and two chapters of the New Testament.
- » Start in the Gospel of John and read to the end of the New Testament, then read Matthew, Mark, and Luke before beginning the Old Testament.