

Learning Package: THE BIBLE



The Bible is the Word of God. In it, God makes Himself and His will known to us. Through this introduction to the Bible there are four basic things that all of us should understand:

1. Why the Bible was written.
2. How its different parts fit together.
3. How to use some Bible study tools help in understanding.
4. All of scripture points us to Jesus – even those parts written before his birth.

As with other Confirmation packets, you will have access to various resources and materials that will aid in your learning. Take some time to look these resources over. You will use each of them briefly as you work on this packet, but will continue to use many of them with future materials.

ON-LINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR HELP IN BIBLE STUDY

www.biblegateway.com - NIV, CEV, and Good News on-line, as well as other tools.

www.biblestudytools.net - Online Bibles, commentaries, concordances, dictionaries – you name it.

www.bible.cc - View multiple Bible translations and many other Bible tools mentioned here.

What is the Bible and where did it come from?

READ: “What Is the Bible?”

You will need a GOOD NEWS, NIV, and a CEV Bible to answer some of the questions that follow.

1. The word “bible” comes from the Greek word “biblion” which means _____.
2. The Bible has also been called the Scriptures, or the Holy Scriptures. What does Scripture mean? _____
3. Why do we call the Bible the Holy Scriptures? _____
4. The Bible is similar to other books we might read. What kinds of literature are included in the Bible? _____

5. What fact makes the Bible different from other books?

Note: Inspiration or inspired means "God given"

6. Complete the following using 2 Timothy 3:16
- a. Good News "All scripture is _____ by God."
 - b. NIV "All scripture is _____."
 - c. CEV "Everything in the Scriptures is _____."

These three different versions of the Bible (Good News, NIV, and CEV) all say the same thing. The words are different because when Bibles are translated from the Greek there are many ways to say in English what was written in the Greek. Different translators used different English words to tell us what the Greek says. There are hundreds of versions of the Bible available. The three used here are all popular and widely used.

7. Complete the following verses from the Bible version indicated. From 1 Corinthians 2:13.

Good News: "We do not speak _____ taught by human wisdom, but in _____ taught by the Spirit."

NIV: "This is what we speak, not in words taught us by _____ but in words taught _____."

CEV: "Every word we speak was taught to us _____, not by _____."

8. Revelation means _____.
9. The Bible has _____ books. There are _____ books in the Old Testament, and _____ books in the New Testament.
10. The Old Testament tells about _____.
11. The original Old Testament was written in what language? _____
12. The original New Testament was written in what language? _____
13. The Old Testament begins with the story of creation in Genesis. The Old Testament ends with the book of Malachi, a few hundred years before the birth of Christ. The New Testament begins with the birth of Jesus Christ. The first four books are the Gospels, each of which covers the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven of Jesus. Name the four Gospels.
_____, _____, _____, _____
14. The Bible can be divided into two parts. The first is called the _____, with all of its events occurring before the birth of Jesus Christ. The second half is called the _____, and it consists of the life and teachings of Jesus.
15. From your reading, describe a creative way you can recall how many books are found in either the New or Old Testament. _____

LISTEN to the song “Revelation.” Follow along with the words to the song with the sheet available in the resource area.

1. How would you say God revealed Himself and His words to the writers of Scripture.
2. The singer seems to be really struggling with where to go and what to do yet seems confident that a revelation from God can show him the way. Can you think of any of the writers of the Bible who seemed to struggle? Who and how?
3. What question or situation in your life right now is in need of a revelation from God?
4. List two questions or situations that you think most Middle School students struggle with.

READ “How We Got Our Bible.” As you read, complete the Time Line found on the next page. Afterwards, answer the following questions.

1. When there were no books, how did people learn the stories of creation, the flood, and slavery in Egypt? _____
2. Identify three materials on which people wrote God’s word once writing was developed:
_____, _____, _____
3. The Old Testament was written between _____ BC and _____ BC.
4. In the New Testament, the letters of Paul were written between _____ AD and _____ AD. The four Gospels were written later, between _____ AD and _____ AD.
5. By the year _____ AD, the Bible was exactly as we have it today.

TIME LINE FOR THE BIBLE

A.D. 2000
A.D. 1800
A.D. 1600
A.D. 1400
A.D. 1200
A.D. 1000
A.D. 800
A.D. 600
A.D. 400
A.D. 200
A.D. 100
0
200 B.C.
400 B.C.
600 B.C.
800 B.C.
1000 B.C. }
1200 B.C. }
1400 B.C.
1600 B.C.
1800 B.C.
2000 B.C.
2200 B.C

Add these A.D. dates:

2009: You in Confirmation Class
1991: Twins Win World Series
1809: Abraham Lincoln Born
1776: Declaration Of Independence
1492: America Discovered
1483: Martin Luther Born
1095-1099: The Crusades
70: Jewish Temple Destroyed by Romans

Add these dates with events from the article "How We Got Our Bible".

367 AD
100 AD
65-90 AD
50-65 AD
0
586-539 BC
922-586 BC
922-721 BC
1020-922 BC
1200-1020 BC
1300 BC

Some people say the creation was around 4000 BC, while others say it was millions of years ago.

If you try to figure a date for creation from the Bible, it comes close to the 4000 BC date.

What is in the Bible and where do I find it?

READ The Table of Contents in your Bible (Books of the Bible).

Work with a friend or a group on memorizing the books. Use the quiz area below to write as many books as you can without looking. After you've corrected your sheet and have all of the books written, LISTEN to the song "Bible Book Bop" and follow along on your sheet. When you feel confident, get a new, blank quiz sheet and try to list the books with no helps whatsoever.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE QUIZ

Directions: List the Books of the Bible in order with the correct spelling.

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. 1
10. 2
11. 1
12. 2
13. 1
14. 2
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____
31. _____
32. _____
33. _____
34. _____
35. _____
36. _____
37. _____
38. _____
39. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. 1
8. 2
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. 1
14. 2
15. 1
16. 2
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. 1
22. 2
23. 1
24. 2
25. 3
26. _____
27. _____

What tools are available to help in understanding the Bible?

READ “Bible study tools.” Complete the matching definitions below. Mark the blanks in front of the column marked “Bible Tools” with the appropriate letter from the “Definitions” column. If you are unsure, put an “x” in the column instead and check with your leader.

BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

- _____ 1. Concordance
- _____ 2. Bible Dictionary
- _____ 3. Bible Handbook
- _____ 4. Bible Atlas
- _____ 5. Cross Reference
- _____ 6. Commentary
- _____ 7. Contemporary English Version
- _____ 8. Revised Standard Version
- _____ 9. Today’s English Version
- _____ 10. New International Version
- _____ 11. Living Bible
- _____ 12. People

DEFINITIONS

- A. Sharing, listening, and checking it out
- B. Tool that shows the same word in different references
- C. Numerous helps for Bible study and understanding
- D. Alphabetical listing of important words in passages
- E. Bible Translation from the original languages (more than one)
- F. Alphabetical listing of words and proper names with their definition.
- G. Information about lands, people, climate, cities, etc.
- H. Restatements of a passage or statement in other words.
- I. A detailed discussion about any reference in the Bible.

PRACTICE making use of some of the Bible study tools.

Using a Bible Dictionary (portions copied for you, or go on-line yourself), write a brief report on one of the following (answer on a blank sheet of paper and attach it to this packet)

- 1. The Passover Festival
- 2. The Jewish Pentecost
- 3. The Christian Pentecost
- 4. The Day of Atonement

Using an NIV Concordance, locate the following passages and write down where they are found:

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we shall be called children of God.”

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” _____

Using a Concordance, count the number of times each of the following words are used in the Bible.

_____ Storm _____ Abel _____ Laugh

Using a Bible Atlas, locate a map showing the path that Moses and the Israelites took when they fled Egypt. Using the traditional path, estimate how long (in miles) their journey was (_____), as well as the actual distance between the starting and ending locations (_____).

Based on what you know about the story of The Exodus, discuss why you believe the journey took so long – do you know how long this journey took?

What can people discover by reading the Bible?

READ “The Purpose of the Bible” and complete the following.

1. The Bible is a book to be read in _____.
2. The message of the Bible is the Gospel, the good news that _____
_____.
3. Many people have a hard time understanding the Old Testament, and that is because they don't know the key that will unlock its mysteries and secrets. What is the key?
_____.
4. 2 Timothy 3:15-17 (NIV) – “From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to _____ through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is _____, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be _____ for every good work.”
5. As we read the Bible, we find out _____
_____.
6. The Bible is like a two-act play. What stories happen in the introduction and in each act?
Introduction:
First act:
Second act:
7. Because of God's love for us, we are to _____.
8. What are the answers these three passages give us to the questions from the article?
John 11:25-26

Matthew 16:15-16

Galatians 5:22-23

READ: “My God Speaks to Me.”

1. How did God first speak to Moses? _____
2. God spoke to Noah and the people of his time through the flood. Do you think that God still allows or causes storms and other “natural disasters” today to speak to people? Explain.
3. In what ways are you “listening” for what God has to say?
4. Write about a time where you felt God spoke to you.

WATCH “The Matrix” video clip.

1. Imagine God has a red pill. If you were to take it and could see the world through God’s eyes, what would you expect to see?
2. In Acts 26:18 Paul explains that faith in Christ opens our eyes – literally shows us a whole new world. How have your eyes been opened by your faith in Christ?

WRITE your final thoughts. Now that you have finished the work in this packet, in the space below write an explanation of what the Bible means to you. Include comments on the following:

1. Why you read the Bible (or why you don’t).
2. What problems you have in trying to read the Bible.
3. How you might now be better able to understand it.
4. At least one question you still have regarding the Bible.

END OF PACKET DISCUSSION. BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS
THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WITH A SMALL GROUP AND A LEADER.

1. Discuss what the Bible means to you.
2. Explain what the Bible is.
3. Define and discuss these terms – bible, Scriptures, Good news, NIV, CEV.
4. Describe how we got the Bible.
5. Explain the uses of various Bible study aids.
6. Discuss what people can discover by reading the Bible, or why they read the Bible.