



CONNECT

FIRST STEPS - LESSON 4: THE BIBLE



Objectives

- New believers to realise the importance of studying the Bible.
- New believers to know more about the Bible.
- New believers to learn how to apply God's Word in their daily lives.

Introduction

There is countless number of books in this world, but there is not a single book that can compare to the Bible – because it is not written by man, but through the inspiration of God.

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

2 Timothy 3:16-17

As a result, the Bible is God's revelation to man, free from human error. The Bible has authority and greatly influences the lives of its readers. Many people in the world, both in the past and in the present time, have had their lives transformed by their daily reading of the Bible.

Benefits Of Reading The Bible

1. The Word of God is our spiritual food

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:4

Why can't a man live on bread alone? Isn't food enough to sustain a man's life? We are not made up of only a physical body, but of 3 different parts: the physical body, the soul (mind, will and emotions) and the spirit. Just as our soul needs fellowship with others, our spirit needs God's Word (the Bible). God's Word provides nourishment to our spirit, causing it to grow and helping us to become more like Jesus.

Just as an infant needs milk, so do our spiritual lives need the word of God (**1 Peter 2:2**). Our body cannot work properly when it lacks food; neither can our spirit when it lacks God's Word. The Bible is the essential tool needed for walking a Christian life. Therefore, we must read the Bible every day.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

1 Peter 2:2

2. The Word of God gives direction to our lives

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalm 119:105

The Bible is compared to a lamp and a light, which guides our lives to walk on the right path that God desires us to go. Often in our lives we have to make decisions, yet we do not always know which direction is the best for us to choose. When we read the Bible, we will understand and know God's plan and His will for our lives, which could assist us in decision making.

3. The Word of God Reveals God to us

God reveals Himself in His Word, the Bible. The Bible is a book about God and His relationship with human beings. The Scriptures contain a long history of God's revelation of Himself to man—from the first man Adam to the lawgiver Moses, the prophets down through the apostles and the early Church.

Inspired by God Himself, the Bible gives us the master key to knowing Him. Scripture speaks of 'things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining, all prepared by God for those who love him'; and these are what God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit explores everything, even the depths of God's own nature.

However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"- the things God has prepared for those who love him-these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

How can we get to know God better? Who He is? What His heart desires are? What He wants to say to us? The Word of God is a key means that God communicates those aspects to us.

4. The Word of God reveals our imperfection

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror.

James 1:23

We can liken the Bible to a mirror, which not only reveals the holiness of God but also reveals the imperfection of men. When we read the Bible, the Spirit of God will reveal our shortcomings and show us what we need to change.

5. The Word prepares us for every good work

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

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Word of God can powerfully change our lives. It is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness according to the will of God, so that we can be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Every Christian should seek to know God and His will – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

6. God's Word will change us to become more like Jesus

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:48

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

God's call for is to be transformed into Christ-likeness. God does not expect us to change in one day, but He does expect us to gradually develop our lives to become more like Him.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

Seven Simple Facts About The Bible

1. The Bible consists of 66 books; 39 books in Old Testament, 27 books in New Testament

2. The Bible is unique in its continuity

The Bible is a single, unified book, with a single unfolding theme concerning God's redemptive plan for mankind. The Bible involves many diverse factors and many complex and controversial subjects. Yet, it contains an amazing continuity of harmonious message.

For example:

- a. The Bible was written by 40 over authors, each from different cultural and occupational background. They came from all walks of life: kings, doctor, poets, fishermen, rabbi, tax collector, shepherd, scholars, philosophers, statesman, general etc.
- b. The Bible was written from three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.
- c. The Bible was written in three languages:
Hebrew (language of OT)
Aramaic (common language used during and after the exile)
Greek (language of NT)
- d. The Bible was written during different moods. Some heights of joy, some in despair and sorrow.
- e. The Bible was written at different times: David in times of war, Solomon in times of peace.
- f. The Bible was written over a 1600-year period, covering 60 generations.

3. The Bible is unique in its endurance

The Bible has been read by more people and published in more languages than any other books. It also survived through the difficult periods like persecution and criticisms. The Bible's enduring popularity proves that it is inspired and preserved by God.

4. The Bible is unique in its fulfilment of Biblical prophecy

The Bible contains hundreds of specific prophecies concerning nations, cities, historic events and individuals. Most have been fulfilled. The fulfilment is a testimony of the divine origin and accuracy of the Bible.

For example, over 300 Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus were fulfilled. Passages like **Isaiah 7:14** (virgin birth), **Isaiah 53** (how Jesus died) and **Zechariah 9:9** (Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey).

5. The Bible is unique in its contribution to archaeology

Though many critics disprove the contents of the Bible, archaeology has consistently proven its absolute reliability and chronologies.

For example, The Hittites are mentioned in the Bible (**Genesis 23:10, 17-20**). They lived in Canaan which is the old name of Palestine. Dr Hugh Winckler went to the area mentioned in **Numbers 13:29** and excavated over 40 of Hittite cities.

The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.
Numbers 13:29

6. The Bible is unique in its transforming power

The Bible has a dynamic, life-changing power upon lives of individuals worldwide. Regardless of gender, age, nationality, ethnic origin, culture, social status, occupation, intellectual level or family background, the Bible is continually making an impact in the lives of his creation.

Right Attitudes Towards The Bible

1. We must obey the Bible

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is written by the inspiration of God, which carries authority to transform lives. Every Christian should be submissive and obedient to the Bible. There may be times when we fall short of obeying God's Word; we must continue to have a sincere attitude to follow the teachings in the Bible.

2. Hunger for God's Word

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it
you may grow up in your salvation,*
1 Peter 2:2

When we read the Bible, we must have an attitude of hunger for God's Word. We should desire to know and understand the Bible fully. Like an infant hunger for milk, we must hunger and thirst after our Lord's Word.

3. An attitude of faith

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to
him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*
Hebrews 11:6

The Bible is the revelation of God to men. As we read the Bible it allows us to draw closer to the Lord and enter into His presence. We should read the Word of God with faith and not with the attitude of trying to disprove its truth. For without faith it is impossible to please God.

- We have faith that the Bible is the Holy Word of God.
- We have faith that it is free from human error and that it never fails because it is inspired by the one and only God.
- We have faith that the Bible holds the highest standards, precepts and truths.
- We have faith that the Word of God is powerful and able to transform our lives.

How To Apply God’s Word In Our Daily Life?

The following examples show us how we can apply some of the biblical principles in our daily lives.

Mentor Chat

1. 2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14

2. 2 Corinthians 6:16a

*What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?
For we are the temple of the living God.*

2 Corinthians 6:16a

3. Mark 12:30

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Mark 12:30

4. Mark 12:31

*The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no commandment greater than these.*

Mark 12:31

It is very important for us to put God's Word into daily practice. Our lives will be changed by God when we make a decision to apply His Word in our daily life.

Conclusion

The Bible is essential for our Christian life and we cannot live without it. We must read the Bible daily with hope and faith that it will transform our lives. We must apply its principles in our daily walk with the Lord.

**The Bible is the manual of the Christian life.
It spells: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.**

Memory Verse

ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED AND IS USEFUL FOR TEACHING, REBUKING, CORRECTING AND TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, SO THAT THE SERVANT OF GOD MAY BE THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17



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