

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| Introduction | 5 |
| How to Use the Lesson Assignments | 5 |
| For the Teacher/Instructor | 6 |
| Lesson 1 Assignment: Introduction to the Bible | 13 |
| Lesson 1 Teacher's Notes | 21 |
| Lesson 2 Assignment: How to Know the Bible | 33 |
| Lesson 2 Teacher's Notes | 43 |
| Lesson 3 Assignment: God: His Character and Attributes | 47 |
| Lesson 3 Teacher's Notes | 56 |
| Lesson 4 Assignment: The Person of Jesus Christ | 67 |
| Lesson 4 Teacher's Notes | 72 |
| Lesson 5 Assignment: The Work of Christ | 77 |
| Lesson 5 Teacher's Notes | 83 |
| Lesson 6 Assignment: Salvation | 89 |
| Lesson 6 Teacher's Notes | 95 |
| Lesson 7 Assignment: The Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit | 101 |
| Lesson 7 Teacher's Notes | 106 |
| Lesson 8 Assignment: Prayer and the Believer | 113 |
| Lesson 8 Teacher's Notes | 118 |
| Lesson 9 Assignment: The Church: Fellowship and Worship | 123 |
| Lesson 9 Teacher's Notes | 130 |
| Lesson 10 Assignment: Spiritual Gifts | 139 |
| Lesson 10 Teacher's Notes | 144 |
| Lesson 11 Assignment: Evangelism and the Believer | 151 |
| Lesson 11 Teacher's Notes | 156 |
| Lesson 12 Assignment: Obedience | 161 |
| Lesson 12 Teacher's Notes | 167 |
| Lesson 13 Assignment: God's Will and Guidance | 171 |
| Lesson 13 Teacher's Notes | 177 |

1 Lesson

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Prepare for Your Assignment

1. Along with this workbook, you will need a Bible and a journal or notebook for personal notes from the message you will hear.
2. Download message #1, "Our God-Breathed Bible," from www.gty.org/fof.
3. Using your Bible, fill in the answers on the following pages.

Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

❖ I hope you have an appreciation for the Scripture. I hope you have an appreciation for it not as a fetish but because it is the greatest treasure, apart from God Himself, that we have. It is His very Word, His very self-revelation. When people ask me why it is that I systematically teach through book after book, why it is that I pay so much attention to detail and to every verse and every phrase and touch all the words, I tell them it's because I understand them to be the words of God revealed to us from Him. And I would not second-guess the necessity of those words being then presented, taught and understood by all of us.

— John MacArthur

The Bible is the Word of God. It claims to be the truth, the message from God to man. Second Peter 1:21 says that "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

- ▶ The Scriptures were written by approximately 40 different men.
- ▶ These men lived in several different countries and cultures.
- ▶ They lived in different eras (1400 B.C. through A.D. 90).
- ▶ They wrote in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

Despite these differences, God moved the writers to focus on His glory in man's redemption through one central figure—Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT (39 BOOKS)

A. The Pentateuch (5 books)

The first five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses around 1400 B.C. They often are referred to as the "Five Books of Moses" or the "Pentateuch."

List the books of the Pentateuch in the order you find them in your Bible.

1. Genesis The book of beginnings: Creation, man, sin, redemption, God's nation
2. Exodus God delivers His people from Egypt
3. Leviticus Atonement, holiness, and worship through sacrifice and purification
4. Numbers God's people continually disobey and wander in the wilderness for 40 years
5. Deuteronomy Moses' great discourses to prepare Israel to enter the Promised Land

B. History (12 books)

The historical books were written between 1400 and 450 B.C. and describe God's dealings with His chosen people, Israel, the Hebrew nation.

List these books in order.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>Joshua</u> | 5. <u>2 Samuel</u> | 9. <u>2 Chronicles</u> |
| 2. <u>Judges</u> | 6. <u>1 Kings</u> | 10. <u>Ezra</u> |
| 3. <u>Ruth</u> | 7. <u>2 Kings</u> | 11. <u>Nehemiah</u> |
| 4. <u>1 Samuel</u> | 8. <u>1 Chronicles</u> | 12. <u>Esther</u> |

C. Poetry (5 books)

The following five books are poetic, describing in poetry and song God's greatness and His dealings with men.

List these books in order.

1. Job The suffering and loyal trust of a man who loved God
2. Psalms Songs of praise and instruction
3. Proverbs God's practical wisdom for daily life
4. Ecclesiastes The emptiness of an earthly life without God
5. Song of Solomon A celebration of marital joy

D. Major Prophets (5 books)

A prophet was a person commissioned by God to deliver His message to men. These books are called "Major Prophets" because they generally are longer than the writings of the "Minor Prophets." The Major Prophets were written approximately between 750 and 550 B.C.

List these books in order.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <u>Isaiah</u> | 3. <u>Lamentations</u> | 5. <u>Daniel</u> |
| 2. <u>Jeremiah</u> | 4. <u>Ezekiel</u> | |

E. Minor Prophets (12 books)

The last 12 books of the Old Testament were written approximately between 840 and 400 B.C.

List these books in order.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <u>Hosea</u> | 5. <u>Jonah</u> | 9. <u>Zephaniah</u> |
| 2. <u>Joel</u> | 6. <u>Micah</u> | 10. <u>Haggai</u> |
| 3. <u>Amos</u> | 7. <u>Nahum</u> | 11. <u>Zechariah</u> |
| 4. <u>Obadiah</u> | 8. <u>Habakkuk</u> | 12. <u>Malachi</u> |

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT (27 BOOKS)

The New Testament, or New Covenant, reveals Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of men. In it we find:

- ▶ The life of Christ
- ▶ The way of salvation
- ▶ The beginning of Christianity
- ▶ Instruction for Christian living
- ▶ God's plan for the future

A. History (5 books)

1. The Gospels (first 4 books)

- a. Matthew The life of Christ, written especially for the Jews, revealing Jesus Christ as their long-awaited Messiah
- b. Mark The life of Christ, revealing Jesus as the obedient Servant of God; written especially to the Roman world
- c. Luke The life of Christ, revealing Jesus as the perfect man, emphasizing His humanity; written by Luke, a Greek, to the Greek world
- d. John The life of Christ, revealing Jesus as the Son of God, stressing His deity; very evangelistic

What two reasons are given for the writing of John's Gospel (John 20:31)?

1. To show that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God (Deity)

2. That in believing in His name, sinners can have life

2. History of the Early Church (1 book)

- Acts The beginning and spread of the Christian church; it could be called the "Acts of the Holy Spirit," and was written as an evangelistic tool

B. Letters or Epistles (21 books)

These books were written to individuals, to churches, or to believers in general. The letters deal with every aspect of Christian faith and responsibility.

List them in order.

1. Paul's Letters (13 books)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. _____ Romans _____ | h. _____ 1 Thessalonians _____ |
| b. _____ 1 Corinthians _____ | i. _____ 2 Thessalonians _____ |
| c. _____ 2 Corinthians _____ | j. _____ 1 Timothy _____ |
| d. _____ Galatians _____ | k. _____ 2 Timothy _____ |
| e. _____ Ephesians _____ | l. _____ Titus _____ |
| f. _____ Philippians _____ | m. _____ Philemon _____ |
| g. _____ Colossians _____ | |

2. General Letters (8 books)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. _____ Hebrews _____ | e. _____ 1 John _____ |
| b. _____ James _____ | f. _____ 2 John _____ |
| c. _____ 1 Peter _____ | g. _____ 3 John _____ |
| d. _____ 2 Peter _____ | h. _____ Jude _____ |

C. Prophecy (1 book)

The last book of the New Testament tells of future events.

- ▶ Return of Christ
- ▶ Reign of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Glory of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Future state of believers and unbelievers

This book is called _____ **Revelation** _____.

III. CHRIST IN THE BIBLE

A. The Old and New Testaments should be seen together, as both portray Jesus Christ as the central figure.

Read the following verses and fill in the blanks.

1. Luke 24:27. Christ is seen in _____ **all the Scriptures** _____.
2. John 5:39. Jesus said the Scriptures "bear witness of _____ **Me** _____."

B. The key is Jesus.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 Law | 12 History | 5 Poetry | 17 Prophecy | 4 Gospels | 1 History | 21 Letters | 1 Prophecy |
| <i>Promises of Christ</i> | <i>Anticipation of Christ: Types, Experiences, and Prophecies</i> | | | <i>Manifestation of Christ</i> | <i>The Church of Christ</i> | | <i>Coronation of Christ</i> |

IV. WHY IS THE BIBLE IMPORTANT?

When tempted by Satan, Jesus alluded to Deuteronomy 8:3: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

A. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say about the Bible? (Choose the correct answer.)

- Some of the Bible is inspired by God.
- There are a few parts that are not inspired.
- The entire Bible is inspired by God.
- Only those parts that speak to us in a personal way are inspired by God.

❖ The Old Testament is the revelation of God to show man what God is like, who God is, what God tolerates and does not tolerate, and how God desires holiness and punishes sin. The New Testament is God revealed by His Son in the life of His Son, in the message of His Son, in the understanding of the work of His Son, and in the culmination and the coming of His Son to establish His eternal kingdom. But in either case, Old Testament, New Testament, God spoke. And what we have is indeed the Word of God. This is not the word of man.

So, men were not inspired, but Scripture is. God breathed into them and they wrote it down, word by word, what God breathed into them. It was more than dictation. They weren't just listening to some voice and writing mechanically every word; it was flowing through their heart and their soul and their mind and their emotions and their experiences. But it came out every word the Word of God. As God breathed into them the message and they were carried along by the Holy Spirit, they said it and some of them wrote it down. Miraculous, supernatural, inexplicable process that yields to us the Word of God.

— *John MacArthur*

B. How do the following verses show the importance of God's Word?

1. 2 Timothy 3:15 The Scriptures are able to give wisdom that leads to salvation.

2. Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

C. What four things does God's Word do?

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Psalm 19:7a | Restores the soul |
| 2. Psalm 19:7b | Makes wise the simple |
| 3. Psalm 19:8a | Gives joy to the heart |
| 4. Psalm 19:8b | Gives light to the eyes |

V. APPLICATION

Based on what you have learned about the Bible, what should your response be?

(Answers will vary)

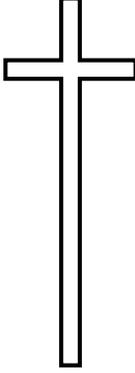
❖ When it comes to godly living and godly service, to growing in “the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4), God-breathed Scripture provides for us the comprehensive and complete body of divine truth necessary to live as our heavenly Father desires for us to live. The wisdom and guidance for fulfilling everything He commands us to believe, think, say, and do is found in His inerrant, authoritative, comprehensive, and complete Word.

It goes without saying that it is impossible to believe, understand, and follow what you do not even know. It is completely futile, as well as foolish, to expect to live a spiritual life without knowing spiritual truth. Biblically untaught believers, especially those in biblically untaught churches, are easy prey for false teachers. They are spiritual “children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming” (Eph. 4:14). Throughout most of redemptive history, God could have said what He said in Hosea’s day: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6). It is for that reason, as well as for the even greater reason of honoring the Lord, that regular, systematic, and thorough study of the doctrine in God’s Word is imperative for God’s people.

— *John MacArthur*

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary series, *2 Timothy* (Moody), © 1987 by John MacArthur. 154–55.

Use the following chart to picture the relationships between the various books of the Bible.

| THE BIBLE AT A GLANCE (66 books) | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| OLD TESTAMENT (39 books) | | |  About 400 years between Testaments | NEW TESTAMENT (27 books) | | |
| HISTORY (17 books) | POETRY (5 books) | PROPHECY (17 books) | | HISTORY (5 books) | LETTERS (21 books) | PROPHECY (1 books) |
| The Law 1 Genesis 2 Exodus 3 Leviticus 4 Numbers 5 Deuteronomy | 1 Job 2 Psalms 3 Proverbs 4 Ecclesiastes 5 Song of Solomon | Major Prophets 1 Isaiah 2 Jeremiah 3 Lamentations 4 Ezekiel 5 Daniel | Gospels 1 Matthew 2 Mark 3 Luke 4 John | Paul's Letters 1 Romans 2 1 Corinthians 3 2 Corinthians 4 Galatians 5 Ephesians 6 Philippians 7 Colossians 8 1 Thessalonians 9 2 Thessalonians 10 1 Timothy 11 2 Timothy 12 Titus 13 Philemon | Revelation | |
| History and Governments 1 Joshua 2 Judges 3 Ruth 4 1 Samuel 5 2 Samuel 6 1 Kings 7 2 Kings 8 1 Chronicles 9 2 Chronicles 10 Ezra 11 Nehemiah 12 Esther | | Minor Prophets 1 Hosea 2 Joel 3 Amos 4 Obadiah 5 Jonah 6 Micah 7 Nahum 8 Habakkuk 9 Zephaniah 10 Haggai 11 Zechariah 12 Malachi | History of the early church Acts | | | General Letters 1 Hebrews 2 James 3 1 Peter 4 2 Peter 5 1 John 6 2 John 7 3 John 8 Jude |
| The New is in the Old, concealed. The Old is in the New, revealed. | | | | | | |
| God used 40 different men over a period of 1,500 years (about 1400 B.C. to A.D. 90) in writing the Bible – 2 Peter 1:20–21 | | | | | | |

HOW THE BIBLE BECAME OURS

Original Manuscripts

around 1500 B.C. through A.D. 100

Sixty-six distinct works. Some writers unknown.



Manuscripts in original language

Translations into other languages and quotations



A.D. 385–404: The Vulgate, Jerome's Latin translation



700–1000: Various Anglo-Saxon partial translations



1382: Complete translations by John Wycliffe and followers



1525–1535: First printed translation by William Tyndale



1535: Coverdale's translation; 1537: Matthew's; 1539: Taverner's and Great Bible translation;
1560: Geneva Bible; 1568: Bishop's; 1610: Rheim's -Douai



1611: The King James Version

1885: English Revised Version



1901: American Standard Version



More Discoveries →

1947: Dead Sea Scrolls



1952: Revised Standard Version; 1960: New American Standard Version;
1973: New International Bible

1995: New American Standard Update; 2001: English Standard Version



INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

THE OBJECTIVES OF LESSON 1

1. To explain the origin of the Bible, including revelation and how God used men to write His words.
2. To give the student a brief overview of the Bible, its structure and the basic content of each book.
3. To present the main themes of the Bible: Jesus Christ, His glory, and the plan of salvation.
4. To present the Bible's claim to be the inspired words of God.
5. To impress upon the student the dynamic, the authority, the veracity, and the completeness of the Holy Scriptures.

THE CLASS PLAN FOR LESSON 1

1. Natural and special revelation.
2. General information about the Bible, including its origin, titles, and translations.
3. Bible survey: Old Testament and New Testament. (This may take two sessions to accomplish.)
4. The inspiration and believability of the Bible.

COMMON QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 1

Where did the Bible come from?

Why are there so many different Bible translations?

How do we know the Bible is God's inspired Word?

How can men have written the Bible and yet we say God wrote the Bible?

SUGGESTED TEACHING OUTLINE LESSON 1

1. Warm-up

If the group has added members since the last time, take a moment for introductions. Ask those who listened to the lesson from the Web site to share one personal highlight from it.

Review the Scripture memory verse, 2 Timothy 3:16. Follow with a statement about the starting point of these lessons: Holy Scripture is the foundation from which all of the *FOF* material will draw its authority (2 Timothy 3:16). Therefore, let the Scripture speak for itself, for it is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). It is the words of Scripture that are powerful and able to change the hearts and thoughts of men.

Give the student a road map as to what you will be covering in the lesson:

1. We will discuss revelation: both natural revelation and special revelation.
2. We will look at the Bible: general information, structure, content, and themes.
3. We will look at the Bible's claim of inspiration: being the very words of God.

2. Revelation

There are two categories of revelation: natural revelation and special revelation. Lead the students through a discussion on both; however, first discuss the definition of revelation.

A. Definition

Use your notes from the MacArthur message and lead the group in working out a definition of *revelation* and *inspiration*. Expand on the principle of God as the source of *revelation*, while *inspiration* is the process God used to give us the special revelation of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16).

Revelation: The act of God whereby He discloses to man what would otherwise be unknown.

Inspiration: A process by which God, as the instigator, moved men by the Holy Spirit to write the words of God.

B. Natural Revelation

Natural revelation, also called general revelation, is God revealing Himself to man through creation and conscience.

- ▶ Through creation—Romans 1:18–20
- ▶ Through conscience—Romans 2:14–15

Review these passages with your students and discuss the importance and limits of natural/general revelation. You can bring the students into the discussion by asking the following questions on Romans 1:18–20:

1. *How has God revealed Himself to man?* Answer: Through creation and through His law written within our hearts.
2. *What does creation show us about God?* Answer: We see His invisible attributes; His eternal power and divine nature.

Then ask the following discussion questions:

1. *What is the purpose of natural/general revelation?* Answer: To cause man to search for a fuller revelation of God.
2. *How does natural/general revelation fall short of giving people enough information to lead directly to salvation?* Answer: Natural revelation gives evidence that God exists; however, it does not reveal how man can be saved from his sinfulness and separation from God. This is why God has also provided special revelation.

C. Special Revelation

Special revelation is God revealing Himself to man through miracles and signs, dreams and visions, theophanies (appearances of God in tangible form), through the prophets and the greatest prophet Jesus Christ, and through the written words of God in the Bible.

Take time to look at Hebrews 1:1–2. Remind the class of the statement by Dr. MacArthur from the online message:

❖ The writer of Hebrews is in effect saying God spoke on two occasions. He spoke once long ago; He speaks in these last days by His Son. Now I believe that we are fair in assessing the fact that he has in mind here Old Testament revelation and New Testament revelation. God spoke long ago to the Jewish fathers. Those were the Old Testament prophets, those who received God’s Word long ago under the Old Covenant. He spoke to those fathers by means of the prophets in many portions, *polumeros*, many books, many sections. And you know that there is the Pentateuch and there are the prophetic books and the historical books and there are the books of poetry. And in many, many portions and in many books, God spoke. He spoke to the Jewish fathers. He spoke by means of the prophets.

He also spoke, it says, in many ways, *polutropos*. That means through vision and prophecy and parable and type and symbol and ceremony and theophany and sometimes audible voice. And He even wrote with His finger on stone. There were many ways in which God spoke many things, collected in many texts, put into many books, and He spoke to those of old by means of the prophets. That is a statement with reference to the fact that the Old Testament is God speaking.

— *John MacArthur*

1. Types of special revelation

The class may find it helpful to review a few of the following Scripture passages for examples of God’s special revelation outside of His revealed Word:

- ▶ Theophanies
 - To Abraham—Genesis 17:1
 - To Isaac—Genesis 26:2
 - To Jacob—Genesis 32:30
 - To Moses—Exodus 3:2–6
- ▶ Dreams and Visions
 - Jacob’s ladder—Genesis 28:12–16
 - Daniel—Daniel 2:19, 28
- ▶ Miracles and Signs
 - Flood—Genesis 7
 - Burning bush—Exodus 3
 - Plagues in Egypt—Exodus 7–13
 - Parting of the Red Sea—Exodus 14

2. The sufficiency of special revelation

The special revelation of God, through His written Word, the Bible, goes beyond natural revelation. The Bible is sufficient to lead one to salvation but does not reveal everything about God to man.

- ▶ Use 2 Timothy 3:15–17 to show students that the Bible is sufficient for salvation, as well as equipping of the saints.
- ▶ Yet the Scriptures do not reveal everything to Christians. Some things are left in the mystery of God (Deuteronomy 29:29; Romans 11:33).

3. General information on the Bible

Briefly go over the following general information regarding the Bible, especially the section on the Old and New Covenants. This is a chance to present the gospel to those who may not understand the difference between works-based salvation and salvation based solely on the blood of Christ.

A. How did we get the Bible?

Have a student read 2 Peter 1:21.

Point: God spoke through men to write His words → Manuscripts

- ▶ Written over 1600 years: 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100
- ▶ 40 different authors
- ▶ 66 books (Old Testament 39; New Testament 27)

Note: No original manuscripts (i.e., autographs) exist today.

Languages:

- ▶ Old Testament written in Hebrew and Aramaic (Daniel 2–6 and Ezra 4–7 written in Aramaic)
- ▶ Septuagint—a Greek translation of the Old Testament written in 3 B.C. Called the “LXX” (Roman numeral for 70) since it was the work of 70 Jewish elders
- ▶ New Testament written in Greek

B. Titles of the Bible

Briefly discuss the different references to the Bible.

- ▶ Bible—meaning book or scroll; became known as *The Book*
- ▶ Canon—Greek word means *rule*; came to mean the Scripture itself
- ▶ Scripture—John 7:38
- ▶ The Writings—2 Timothy 3:15
- ▶ The Word of God—1 Thessalonians 2:13
- ▶ The Law, Prophets, and Psalms—Luke 24:44

C. The Old Testament and the New Testament

The word “Testament” is derived from the Latin *Testamentum*, meaning a will. The Greek word for “will” is *suntheke*, meaning an agreement or a covenant entered into by contracting parties.

- ▶ The Old Testament was based on the Old Covenant (Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 28:1, 15). A covenant of obedience and blessing.
- ▶ The New Testament is based on the New Covenant.
 - The New Covenant is better than the Old (Hebrews 7:22; 8:6).
 - The Old Covenant has passed away (Hebrews 8:13).
 - The New Covenant is through Christ’s blood (Luke 22:20).
 - The New Covenant is not of the Law but of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:5–6).

D. The Apocrypha

It is important to discuss the apocryphal writings because they are included in the Catholic Bible, and many *FOF* students have a Catholic background.

Note: *Apocrypha* means “hidden.”

There are 14 books of the Apocrypha. We do not accept them as inspired of God because:

- ▶ They are never quoted in the New Testament. Also Christ never mentions them in His list in Luke 24:44.
- ▶ They lack the endorsement of the ancient Jewish writers.
- ▶ There are problems with content. For example, the book of Tobit teaches that almsgiving can save you from death and the dark abode (Tobit 4:8–10; 12:9). Second Maccabees 12:43–46 states that one can make atonement for the dead. It is clear that these teachings are inconsistent with biblical teachings.
- ▶ They do not have prophetic power (this is a powerful mark of true Scripture).

E. Bible Translations

Be prepared to give the class a brief overview of the different Bible translations. Depending on the experience of your class, keep this fairly nontechnical. Often the best illustration of the differences between Bible translations is to choose a familiar passage like Psalm 23 or John 3:16 and have people with different translations read the verses. Are these translations saying something different or are they saying the same thing in a different way? Explain that the NASB translation, used in the *FOF* lessons, is an English translation ideally suited for a detailed study of the Bible.

Note: The last page of the lesson lists the various Bible versions and the date of each translation.

4. Bible survey (lesson #1 sections I and II)

You are now ready to do a survey of the Old Testament, and then of the New Testament. You will be giving a brief overview of each book of the Bible and how it fits into the major themes of Scripture. This usually takes 1½ class sessions.

Timelines and Maps: It is suggested to fit the Bible survey into a timeline. This gives the student a reference point as you talk about each of the books and associated people and events. It is also helpful to put up a map of the time period that you are covering. This allows the student to envision the events talked about in their geographical locations.

A. Old Testament Bible Survey

1. Important Old Testament people and events

Use this information when doing the Old Testament survey below.

- ▶ 4000 B.C. Creation
- ▶ 2300 B.C. Flood
- ▶ 2000 B.C. Abraham (Abram)
- ▶ 1860 B.C. Isaac
- ▶ 1820 B.C. Jacob
- ▶ 1700 B.C. Joseph → Egypt; Famine; Jacob → Egypt
- ▶ 1446 B.C. Exodus (10 plagues/Passover instituted)
- ▶ 1000 B.C. Kings (Saul, David, Solomon)
- ▶ 900 B.C. Divided kingdom
- ▶ 700 B.C. Assyria destroys Israel
- ▶ 606 B.C. Babylonian captivity of Judah (70 years)
- ▶ 536 B.C. Jews return to Jerusalem—Ezra (rebuilds temple); Nehemiah (rebuilds wall)

2. Sections of the Old Testament

Before starting the Old Testament survey, discuss the different sections of the Old Testament. Explain that the 39 Old Testament books are divided into 3 major sections:

- 17 Historical books
- 5 Poetical/Wisdom books
- 17 Prophetical books

Note: Even though the 17 historical books are in chronological order, the poetical and prophetical books are not, but need to be interwoven into the historical time period.

Have your students open to the start of lesson #1, section IA.

Ask: *What are the first five books of the Bible called?* Answer: The Pentateuch.

Have a student read the names of these 5 books, and then talk through each book using your timeline and map, covering key people and events.

Important: Be sure to cover the Passover (Exodus 12:3–13) and talk about Christ as the final Passover Lamb (John 1:29, 36; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Isaiah 53:7). This is a chance to present the gospel!

Note: You need to know this information so well that you can fluently talk about the major events and people, and form questions as you go. Have your students interact as you are going through the material. Let the students who have some Bible knowledge describe the events and tell about key people as you guide them along.

Need help?: To help you with key events and people within each of the books of the Bible, there are various resources available such as *The MacArthur Bible Handbook*, by John MacArthur.

Time limit: The amount of time you spend on the individual books of the Bible during this review will depend on the class time allotted. Remember, there are 66 books, so you must move quickly, only dwelling on key people and events.

Have your students turn to lesson #1, section IB.

Ask: *What are the next 12 books of the Bible called?* Answer: The historical books.

Have a student read the names of these 12 books, and then talk through each book using your timeline and map, covering key people and events.

Have your students turn to lesson #1, section IC.

Ask: *What are the next 5 books of the Bible called?* Answer: The poetical books.

Have a student read the names of these 5 books, and then give a brief overview of each book, explaining when in the historical time frame it took place.

Have your students turn to lesson 1, sections ID and IE.

As above, do the same for the major prophets and the minor prophets.

Start by asking the students, *Why are the major prophets called “major” and the minor prophets called “minor”?* Answer: Major prophets are longer books than the minor prophets.

B. New Testament Bible Survey

You will follow the same format to present the New Testament Bible survey as you did for the Old. Some helpful information for you to fit into your presentation:

1. Sections of the New Testament

The sections of the New Testament are similar to the Old Testament. Explain that the 27 New Testament books are also divided into three major sections:

- The first 5 books of the New Testament are historical.
- The next 21 books are doctrinal epistles.
- The last book, Revelation, is prophetic.

2. Key points and events to highlight when surveying the New Testament

- ▶ Matthew, Mark, Luke are called the Synoptic Gospels (*synoptic* means “seeing together”). They cover the following key events and people:
 - Birth of Christ
 - John the Baptist
 - Christ’s temptations
 - Choosing of the 12 disciples
 - The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1–7:29)
 - The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24–25)
 - Christ’s miracles
 - Christ’s parables
 - Lazarus raised from the dead
 - Christ’s arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection
- ▶ The Gospel of John presents Christ as God.
 - The book of seven signs (miracles of Christ)
 - The book of I AMs
- ▶ The Book of Acts gives the transition from Judaism to the church of Christ.
 - Ascension of Christ
 - Pentecost—50 days after Passover
 - Key people: Peter, Paul
 - Paul’s conversion and missionary journeys (use a map)
- ▶ Epistles—give a brief overview of each
 - Letters to churches (point out on a map)
 - Letters to individuals
- ▶ Revelation (the only prophetic book)
 - The tribulation and the return of Christ
 - The kingdom and final judgment

5. Christ in the Bible (lesson #1, section III)

Discuss the students’ answers to each of the questions in this section.

A. Luke 24:27. Christ is seen in all the Scriptures.

B. John 5:39. Jesus said the Scriptures “bear witness of Me.”

Be prepared to explain how Christ is seen throughout the Old Testament Scriptures. A few examples are:

- ▶ Christ is promised through the blessing of Abraham’s line (Genesis 12:1–3).
- ▶ Christ is pictured in the Passover, as He was to be the true Passover Lamb (Exodus 12; John 1:29, 36).
- ▶ Christ’s crucifixion was predicted (Psalm 22:1–8; Isaiah 53:4–7).
- ▶ Christ’s birthplace was predicted (Micah 5:2).
- ▶ Christ’ future kingdom, dominion, and glory were predicted (Daniel 7:14).

6. Why is the Bible important? (lesson #1, section IV)

Section IV, B, 1, of the lesson introduces the Bible as the inspired Word of God. This claim of Scripture is a key doctrine of the Christian faith. Be prepared to discuss this doctrine with your class. Below are notes to help in your preparation for the discussion.

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

Start the discussion by asking, *What does inspiration mean?*

After the discussion, give the definition: *Inspiration is God overseeing and directing men to write His words. It is the process by which God, as the instigator, worked through human prophets without destroying their individual personalities and styles, to produce divinely authoritative writings.*

Discuss with the class some of the misconceptions regarding the Bible in the lives of unbelievers as well as some believers. These preconceived concepts may be that the Bible contains errors or has lost its original meaning through the last two thousand years.

Ask, *How do we know the Bible is the inspired Word of God?*

Key points to be made:

- ▶ The Scripture claims to be the Word of God
- ▶ The sovereignty of God in preserving His revealed Word

A. The Scripture claims to be the Word of God

The Bible is its own best source when the topic of inspiration is discussed. Paul claimed that the message he and the other apostles were proclaiming was from God (1 Thessalonians 2:13). Throughout the Old Testament there are statements such as, “God said,” or “the Lord said,” or “the Word of the Lord.” The Scripture repeatedly uses these terms in relation to divine inspiration.

In fact, Paul writes to Timothy, “All Scripture is inspired by God” (2 Timothy 3:16). Take time in the classroom to discuss this passage and what “inspired” means. Lead them to the truth that “inspiration” literally means “God-breathed.”

Paul makes explicit claims of receiving his words from the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:12–13). It is important for students to recognize the divine nature of the Scriptures. All the words in the Scriptures are of divine inspiration (2 Peter 1:20–21; Psalm 16:7–10; Acts 13:32–35).

B. The sovereignty of God in preserving His revealed Word

The sovereignty of God is an important discussion relating to this topic. Remember, God is in control of all things, including His Word. God's purpose cannot be challenged in any realm (Isaiah 46:10), and this is true of His Word as well. Explain that God's purposes and will preserve His Word (Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; 1 Peter 1:25).

THE CANONIZATION OF THE BIBLE

Common Question: "How was the Bible Canon recognized?"

Many people come out of the Roman Catholic Church and do not understand why so many of the Bibles being used do not have the Apocrypha. Therefore, take time to address the issue, teaching the students why we have 66 books in the Canon.

When discussing the nature of the Canon, it is important to stress that God is in control of all things (Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11). God not only superintended the writing of the books, but also providentially collected and preserved those writings He inspired. However, this does not exclude human responsibility. In fact, God used human means to recognize and receive the Canon. The church in no way determines the Canon, as stated above; the church only recognizes and receives that which God has already inspired and preserved.

Start the discussion by asking, *So this raises the next question, why these 66 books?*

There are eight prospective reasons for the 66 books.

1. Testimony of God the Holy Spirit to the authority of His own Word
2. Prophetic authorship (2 Peter 1:20–21)
3. God's providential care in preserving that which He desires to preserve according to His own will (Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; 1 Peter 1:25).
4. God's people responding in recognition of God's Canon in faith and submission
5. Many of the books in the present Canon claim to be the Word of God.
6. In regard to the O.T., Christ validated the Old Testament books (Luke 24:44; 11:51; Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; 22:29–30).
7. In regard to the N.T., Peter recognized Paul's writings as being equal with Scripture (2 Peter 3:15–16). Paul recognized Luke 10:7 as Scripture in 1 Timothy 5:18.

These arguments may be used to support the inclusion of the books that are in the present-day Canon. The books that are in the Bible have the quality of inspiration and were recognized by the early church as authoritative.

THE BELIEVABILITY OF THE BIBLE

Believers cannot prove to unbelievers that the Bible is God's Word. The reason is because unbelievers are spiritually dead (Romans 3:10–18) and thus incapable of affirming Scripture's believability. Unbelievers should be confronted with the gospel itself. Once saved, the Holy Spirit will convict the person of the fact that the Bible is God's Word.

The purpose of this section is to strengthen a believer's conviction that the Bible is God's Word. Some of the reasons to find the Bible believable:

- ▶ Ordinary men wrote the Scriptures. In fact, John and Peter were both fishermen, while Matthew was a tax collector. God did not use the philosophers of the day; rather, He used common men to write an uncommon book!
- ▶ The Bible is also internally consistent. That is, there are no errors or contradictions. The Bible was written over a period of 1600 years by 40 different authors in three different languages. Yet the Bible remains without errors and contradiction! Those who oppose God and His Word have sought to discredit the Bible. However, no man has ever found information in the Bible that can be proven to be wrong. No book has been more scrutinized than the Bible, and it still stands strong as God's infallible Word.
- ▶ The Bible is a powerful and dynamic book that has not only changed the lives of millions of people, it also convicts God's people of sin and leads them down the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. The Bible has had more influence than any book ever written.
- ▶ The Bible is historically accurate, giving credible evidence for creation, fossil records, and so on.
- ▶ Jesus Christ Himself confirmed the believability of the Scriptures. Jesus believed in the law and prophets (Matthew 5:17–18), believed in Jonah (Matthew 12:40–41), and believed the historical narrative of Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10:15).
- ▶ There are various prophecies concerning the Messiah that confirm the believability of the Bible.
 - The birthplace of the Messiah was predicted 700 years before His birth, saying that He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, fulfilled in Luke 4–7).
 - Christ would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, fulfilled in Matthew 1:18–25).
 - Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was predicted 700 years before it occurred (Zechariah 9:9, fulfilled in John 12:12–15).
 - Christ's crucifixion and suffering were also prophesied 700 years before fulfillment (Psalm 22:14–18, fulfilled in John 19:23–37; Isaiah 53:4–7, fulfilled in Matthew 26:63).
 - Each of these prophecies can be used to help believers strengthen their resolve about the believability of the Scriptures.

The Bible was written over a period of 16 centuries by 40 different authors, yet it is remarkably consistent. Prophecies made about events that would occur hundreds of years later were fulfilled. It has proven to be historically accurate. Most important, the Bible claims to be the Word of God. The Bible has all the marks of being the inspired Word of God.

7. Application (lesson #1, section V)

Exhort your students to spend time in the Bible and to dig deeply into the truths revealed in it. Encourage them by telling them that they do not have to be scholars to understand Scripture. Psalm 119:130 states, "The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."