

### ***Lesson 3: The Bible***

1. Some interesting facts about the Bible:
  - The Bible is God's written revelation of His will to men.
  - The central message is summed up in John 14:6, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
  - The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 authors, covering a period of approximately 1600 years.
  - The Old Testament (comprising 39 books) was written mostly in Hebrew.
  - The New Testament (comprising 27 books) was written in Greek.
  - The word *Bible* comes from the Greek word *βιβλιο* (biblio) meaning *book*.
  - The word *testament* means *covenant* or *agreement*.
  - In the Old Testament we find the covenant of law.
  - In the New Testament we have the covenant of grace.
  - The New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old.
  - Number of verses: 31,102
  - Number of words: 775, 693
  - Longest chapter: Psalm 119
  - Shortest chapter: Psalm 117
  - Longest verse: Esther 8:9
  - Shortest verse: John 11:35, *Jesus wept.*
  - Longest book in the OT: Psalms
  - Longest book in the NT: Luke
  - Ezra 7:21 contains every letter of the Hebrew alphabet except *j*.
  - The Bible is one book, one history, one story. Behind all the various events stands God! The Bible is His story as He interacts with mankind. He is at its beginning and end.
  
2. It actually takes only 80 hours to read the entire Bible! Try it. You'll like it!

## What the Bible says about itself

1. The Bible is the **Word of God**. Both Testament view the words of Scripture as God's own words.
  - **Psalm 119** is replete with the phrase *Thy word*, thus equating the words of the OT with God's word.
  - **Romans 3:2** is the NT view of the OT as the oracles (words) of God.  
*Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.*
  - **1 Corinthians 2:9-13** is an example of the NT view of itself. Verse 13 states,  
*Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*
2. Jesus treated the Scriptures as the Word of God. Read Matthew 22:30-32.  
  
According to Jesus, who was speaking in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Scriptures are **God-breathed**. Read 2 Peter 1:21 and 2 Timothy 3:16.  
  
Who *moved* these men to write? \_\_\_\_\_  
  
How much of the Scripture is authored by God? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Scriptures were **written by men** of God. That is why their individual styles come out in each of their writings. Paul does not write like John; neither does Luke sound like Mark! God in superintending the transmission of His Word allowed each man to reveal his own character through his writing! That, however, does not change the fact that the Bible is the Word of God Himself. These men were *lifted up* by the Spirit of God and *carried along* as they wrote. This is our understanding of 2 Peter 1:21.
5. Write down a word or phrase to summarize each verse below:
  - Psalm 119:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Psalm 119:105a (*a = first part*) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Psalm 119:105b (*b = second part*) \_\_\_\_\_

The Word of God is a *lamp* to show us where we are, and a *light* to show us where we are going! Many a Christian has prayed for God to speak directly to them not realizing that He has already done that in the Bible. The following section will guide you in what to do with the Bible as God's written Word to you personally!

## *What should you do with the Bible?*

1. **Read God's Word!** You would be surprised how many Christians never really read their Bibles. It is impossible to live the Christian life without a good understanding of the Word of God.

What is God's promise in Proverbs 1:23? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Love God's Word!** From Psalm 19:7-10, how much did David value God's Word?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Memorize God's Word!** After reading 1 Peter 3:15 and Psalm 119:11, give two reasons why you should memorize the Word of God.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Meditate on God's Word!** Edmund Burke wrote, "Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting." When you spend time reflecting on God's Word it drives deep into your spirit. Remember Romans 10:17, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* Your faith will be strengthened as you meditate on His Word and it takes control of your spirit and then your soul! List some things that come as a result of meditation from the following verses:

• Joshua 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

• Psalm 1:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

• 1 Timothy 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Obey God's Word!** What good is reading, memorizing, and meditating if you don't obey God's Word? The goal is to let it change you into the character of Christ and that takes obedience! What does James say we are to be?

• James 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

• According to John 15:14, how can you know you are a friend of Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_

Following you will find a 61-day reading through the Bible.

Start reading today.

## Bible Readings: The Essentials in 61 Days

### Insights on Reading the Bible

1. The **61 Readings** are designed to give the disciple a **general overview** of the Bible.
2. **This is not a Bible Study.** For many, this will be the first time you have read through the Bible. You cannot know what the Bible means until you know what it says. Use these readings to become familiar with the Bible's overall message of salvation.
3. **It would also be helpful to use a study Bible.** The ESV Study Bible is an excellent choice. When you start to read a new Book, read the introduction notes in the study Bible. This will help you understand the purpose of each book.
4. **Mark your Bible.** **Underline** important verse, and **circle** important words. The point of marking is to be able to return to the text at a later date and see those things quickly. Be careful not to mark everything, just the things that stand out to you.
5. **Ask the Lord to speak to you.** God speaks through His Word. There will be times when the Lord challenges you to **believe** something, **do** something, **quit** something, or **change** something. Determine some way to remember what He has instructed you. One idea is to mark the Scripture with a color ink or write a note in the margin.
6. **Keep an abbreviated journal.** Take a moment to write down questions you have. I say 'abbreviated' because this could very well get huge, quickly! Ask your Mentor to answer your most important questions. Remember, your goal is to learn the overview. There will time to learn more later.
7. **Fall in love with the Word.** The more you read, the more God will reveal Himself. Get to know Him and love Him. His Word is a window into His character.
8. **Apply the Word.** Never just read for information. Read to know the truth, to know God, and to obey Him. Practice obedience from your first reading.

## Bible Readings: The Essentials in 61 Days

- |                             |   |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1  | Matthew 1-2, 5-7                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 32 | Joshua 1-6, 23-24                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2  | Matthew 17, 26-28                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 33 | Judges 1-4, 13-16                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3  | Mark 1-4, 10, 15-16                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 34 | Ruth 1-4                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4  | Luke 1-2, 4-6                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 | 1 Samuel 7-10, 12                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5  | Luke 8-10, 22-24                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 36 | 1 Samuel 15-20, 28, 31                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6  | John 1, 3-4                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 37 | 2 Samuel 5-8, 11-13, 15, 18           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7  | John 13-17, 19-21                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 38 | 1 Kings 3, 6-12                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | Acts 1-4                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 39 | 1 Kings 17-19, 21                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | Acts 8-10, 12-15                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 | 2 Kings 1-2, 6-7, 11-12               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | Romans 5-8, 12                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 41 | 2 Kings 17-23                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | 1 Corinthians 1-2, 13                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 42 | 1 Chronicles 15-17, 21-22, 28-29      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | 2 Corinthians 4-5, 8-9                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 43 | 2 Chronicles 5-10, 14-16              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | Galatians 5-6                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 44 | 2 Chronicles 24-26, 29-35             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | Ephesians 4-6                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 | Ezra 3, 6-7                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | Philippians 2, 4                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 46 | Nehemiah 1-2, 4, 6                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | Colossians 1, 4                               | <input type="checkbox"/> 47 | Esther 1-4                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 | 1 Thessalonians 2, 4<br>and 2 Thessalonians 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 48 | Job 1-3, 38-42                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 | 1 Timothy 1, 3                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 49 | Psalms 1, 8, 19, 23                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 | 2 Timothy 3-4                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 | Psalms 51, 100, 103, 139              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | Titus 2 and Philemon                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 51 | Proverbs 1-3                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 | Hebrews 10-13                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 52 | Ecclesiastes 1-5, 12<br>and Songs 1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 | James 1-3                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 53 | Isaiah 1-2, 6, 40, 52-55              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 | 1 Peter 1, 5 and 2 Peter 1                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 54 | Jeremiah 1-5 & Lamentations 3         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 | 1 John 1-2, 2 John, and 3 John                | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 | Ezekiel 1-3, 18, 33                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 | Jude, Revelation 19-22                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 56 | Daniel 1-2, 4-6                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 | Genesis 1-3, 12, 15, 22                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 57 | Hosea 1-4 and Joel 2                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27 | Exodus 1-5                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 58 | Amos 3, Obadiah, and Jonah 1          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 28 | Exodus 12-14, 20                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 59 | Micah 1-2 and Nahum 1                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 29 | Leviticus 1, 10, 16, 25                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 | Habakkuk 1, Zephaniah 3,<br>Haggai    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 | Numbers 3-4, 6, 11-14                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 61 | Zechariah 1-2 and Malachi 1           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 31 | Deuteronomy 5-8, 28-31, 34                    |                             |                                       |