

THE GETTING EQUIPPED™ SERIES

Basic Beliefs of Christianity

Lesson- 1



EQUIPPERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL

THE BIBLE

Equipping for the Christian Journey



THE BIBLE

OBJECTIVES OF THE LESSON

1. To believe that the Bible is the Word of God
2. To understand the purpose of the Bible
3. To understand the Bible's benefit to man
4. Commit to read the Bible daily as a result of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AT END

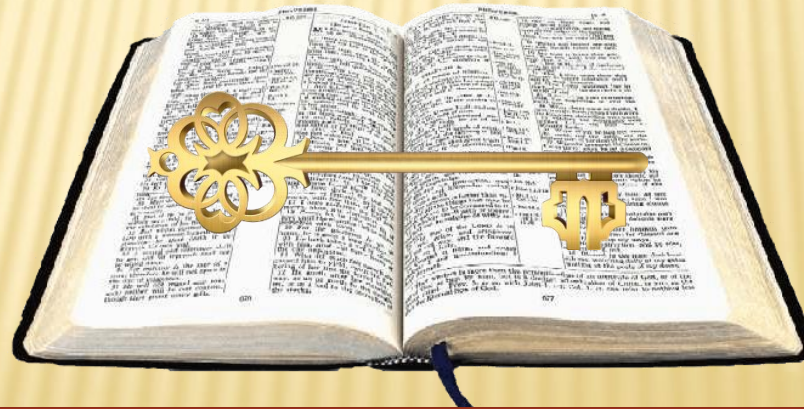


THE BIBLE

KEY VERSE

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16



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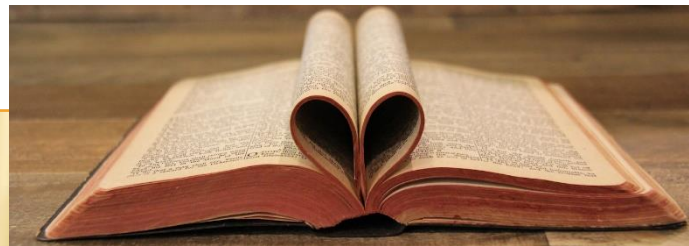
THE BIBLE

The Bible is like no other book

God's words are compiled into what we know as "the Bible" from the Greek word *biblos* meaning "a book." It is God's love letter to people.

The Bible is also called "Scripture," "Word of God," "the law," "statutes," or "precepts."

Reading the Bible reveals to us God's thoughts, plans, and promises.





THE BIBLE



The Bible was written by men but inspired by the Holy Spirit of God. The authors came from all walks of life: kings, fishermen, poets, philosophers, peasants, physicians, shepherds, statesmen, scholars and farmers.

The method in which the Scriptures were written

One of the oldest books in the world

Written on three continents (Asia, Europe and Africa) in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek)

Written over a period of 1500 years and 40 generations

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THE BIBLE

The Bible's unified message

The miracle is that the Bible has a unified message even though it was written over a huge span of years by people of different cultures and diversities.

The message is that God loves people and wants a relationship with them. This is accomplished through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to earth to save sinful people. This message is consistent throughout the Bible—from Genesis to Revelation.

Enemies have tried to destroy the Bible, Satan has tried to defeat the Scriptures, but they have survived.



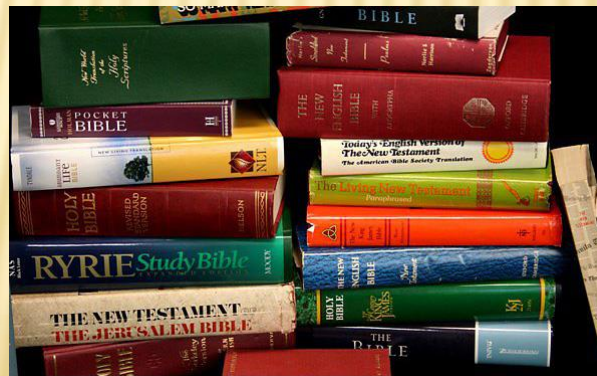
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THE BIBLE

The Bible's popularity

- It has been printed more than any other book ever written.
- It is translated into more languages than any other book.
- It has sold the most copies.
- It is read more than any other book on earth.



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THE BIBLE

The Bible changes lives and answers questions

The Bible has changed the lives of all who read it with a heart to understand God. It continues to change lives today by answering the major questions of life. The Bible is the source of all spiritual truth.

Where did I come from?

Why am I here?

Where will I go when I die?

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THE BIBLE

How is the Bible organized?

Two main sections

Old Testament	New Testament
39 Books	27 Books
Creation of the world	Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection
How God selected the Israelites to be His chosen people	Birth of the Christian church
His plan to provide a Messiah	Letters to believers
History of the Jewish nation	Prophecy



THE BIBLE

The Bible: categorized by type of literature

Old Testament (39 books)

The Law (Pentateuch)

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Narrative/History

Joshua	2 Kings
Judges	1 Chronicles
Ruth	2 Chronicles
1 Samuel	Ezra
2 Samuel	Nehemiah
1 Kings	Esther

Poetry

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor Prophets

Hosea	Nahum
Joel	Habakkuk
Amos	Zephaniah
Obadiah	Haggai
Jonah	Zechariah
Micah	Malachi



THE BIBLE

The Bible: categorized by type of literature

New Testament (27 books)

Gospels

Matthew	Luke
Mark	John

History

Acts

Paul's Letters

Romans	1 Thessalonians
1 Corinthians	2 Thessalonians
2 Corinthians	1 Timothy
Galatians	2 Timothy
Ephesians	Titus
Philippians	Philemon
Colossians	

Other Letters (Epistles)

Hebrews	2 Peter	3 John
James	1 John	Jude
1 Peter	2 John	

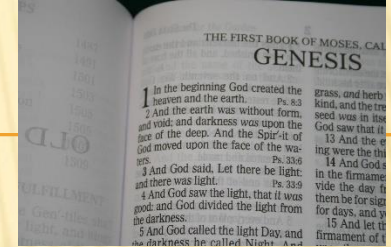
Prophecy

Revelation



THE BIBLE

Scripture references



The **index** (list of books) in the front of the Bible give the page number for the part you wish to study. Translators organized the text as follows: **Books—Chapters** within the book—**Verses** within the chapter.

Scripture references are written in the following order: Name of the book, chapter number followed by “:” and then verse(s).

Scripture references

Reference	Book	Chapter	Verse(s)
Genesis 3:15	Genesis	3	15
Psalms 98:2-6	Psalms	98	2 through 6
Isaiah 10: 4, 8	Isaiah	4	4 and 8
Joel 1:1, 5:1	Two references from the same book		

Note: Occasionally, Scripture passages in a lesson may skip a verse or verses. In this case, “...” will indicate the skipped text.



THE BIBLE

Abbreviations of Bible Books

Book	Abb	Book	Abb	Book	Abb	Book	Abb	Book	Abb
Genesis	Gen	Ezra	Ez	Joel	Joel	Matthew	Matt	1 Timothy	1 Tim
Exodus	Ex	Nehemiah	Neh	Amos	Am	Mark	Mk	2 Timothy	2 Tim
Leviticus	Lev	Esther	Est	Obadiah	Ob	Luke	Lk	Titus	Tit
Numbers	Num	Job	Job	Jonah	Jnh	John	Jn	Philemon	Phm
Deuteronomy	Deut	Psalms	Ps	Micah	Mic	Acts	Ac	Hebrews	Heb
Joshua	Jos	Proverbs	Pr	Nahum	Na	Romans	Rom	James	Jas
Judges	Jdg	Ecclesiastes	Ecc	Habakkuk	Hab	1 Corinthians	1 Cor	1 Peter	1 Pet
Ruth	Ru	Song of Songs	SS	Zephaniah	Zep	2 Corinthians	2 Cor	2 Peter	2 Pet
1 Samuel	1 Sa	Isaiah	Isa	Haggai	Hag	Galatians	Gal	1 John	1 Jn
2 Samuel	2 Sa	Jeremiah	Jer	Zechariah	Zec	Ephesians	Eph	2 John	2 Jn
1 Kings	1 Ki	Lamentations	La	Malachi	Mal	Philippians	Php	3 John	3 Jn
2 Kings	2 Ki	Ezekiel	Eze			Colossians	Col	Jude	Jude
1 Chronicles	1 Ch	Daniel	Dan			1 Thessalonians	1 Thes	Revelation	Rev
2 Chronicles	2 Ch	Hosea	Hos			2 Thessalonians	2 Thes		

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THE BIBLE

What the Bible says about itself

What the Bible says about its purpose, power and benefit to mankind

Inspired by God

For prophesy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

See also 2 Timothy 3:16

Absolutely trustworthy

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. (Psalm 19:7)

See also Psalm 119:89, Matthew 5:18 and 1 Peter 1:25

Produces Life

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. (John 6:63)

Is powerful

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

See also Ephesians 6:17



THE BIBLE

The Bible's benefit to mankind

Provides for faith

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJV)

Helps us pray

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:7)

Shows the Way of Salvation

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

See also John 3:16, Acts 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:15

Makes us wise

And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)

See also Psalms 19:7 and 119:98-100

Cleanses the Soul

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. (John 15:3)

See also Psalm 119:9, 11, Ephesians 5:25-27 and 2 Peter 1:3-4

Provides healing

He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. (Psalm 107:20)

See also Psalms 30:2 and 147:3

Shows us the way to go

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. ...The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. (Psalm 119:105, 130)

See also Psalm 19:8

Provides comfort and strength in times of trouble

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

See also Matthew 7: 24-7

Provides food for the soul and causes growth

Jesus answered, "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

See also Jeremiah 15:16, 1 Corinthians 3:1-2, Ephesians 4:12-15 and 1 Peter 2:2



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THE BIBLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



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THE BIBLE

1. How does God's Word benefit your life?
2. How do you know that the Bible is inspired by God?
3. Explain how the Bible is relevant today.



THE BIBLE

APPLICATION


1. Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16.
2. Look at your Bible. Notice how the books, chapters and verses are arranged. Count how many books are in the Old Testament and the New Testament.
3. Read in your Bible the “See also” Scripture references shown in Tables 1.3 and 1.4.
4. Be prepared to share how the Word of God helped you this week.



THE BIBLE

THE GETTING EQUIPPED™ SERIES

Equipped Through:
Basic Beliefs of Christianity



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And the things you have heard me say in the presence
of many witnesses entrust to reliable men
who will also be qualified to teach others.
2 Timothy 2:2

Equipping for the Christian Journey

The central graphic is a book cover for 'Basic Beliefs of Christianity'. It features a dark red background. At the top, a black banner contains the text 'THE GETTING EQUIPPED™ SERIES'. Below this, the title 'Basic Beliefs of Christianity' is written in white, with 'Equipped Through:' in a smaller, italicized font above it. The center of the cover features a square frame containing the EGi logo and the mountain-climbing silhouettes. Below the frame, the text 'EQUIPPERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL™' is printed. A quote from 2 Timothy 2:2 is centered below that. At the bottom of the cover, a black banner contains the text 'Equipping for the Christian Journey'.

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