

How to Study & Understand the Bible

Answer Key

Lesson 1 – Course Introduction

1. What are some of your favorite Bible stories? ...and why?
2. What are your favorite Bible verses? ...and why?

Student answers will vary

Lesson 2 – Names for the Bible

1. The word BIBLE comes from a Greek word that means **BOOK**
2. Why do we Sign “Bible” as “Jesus-Book”?

*Because the Bible is God’s book that tells us about Jesus.
[Student answers will vary.]*

3. What are some other names that mean the Bible?

<i>Holy Bible</i>	<i>Scriptures</i>	<i>Holy Scripture</i>
<i>God’s Word</i>	<i>Revelation</i>	<i>Holy Writings</i>
<i>Word of God</i>	<i>Word of Truth</i>	<i>Word of the Lord</i>

Lesson 3 – Course Outline

A friend tells you that she wants to start reading the Bible to learn about God. What advice would you give to your friend to help her to get the most benefit from reading the Bible?

Student answers will vary

Lesson 4 – How we got the Bible (part 1)

1. The chief original languages of the Bible are:

(a) **HEBREW (Old Testament)**

(b) **GREEK (New Testament)**

A few chapters of the Old Testament written during or after the Babylonian Captivity have sections written in the Aramaic language, which is very similar to Hebrew. Jewish people living in Israel in the New Testament time also spoke Aramaic.

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Read Matthew 24:35

2. What does God promise about His Word?

“...will never pass away.”

Read Revelation 22:18–19

3. God commands us NOT to do two things to the Bible.

v. 18 ***Don't add anything to the Bible***

v. 19 ***Don't remove anything from the Bible***

3. What English version (translation) of the Bible do you like best? (Examples: KJV, NKJV, NIV, NIRV, etc.) Do you have a favorite Bible version? Which one? Why?

Student answers will vary

Lesson 5 – Course Goal

1. Do you have any books that you use to help you study the Bible and understand it better? (Examples: a Bible dictionary, a concordance, commentaries, a Bible with maps and footnotes that explain the verses.) If your answer is yes, what books do you have? Which of those books help you the most?
2. Are there internet websites that help you understand the Bible better? If your answer is yes, what Bible websites do you often use?

Student answers will vary

Lesson 6 – HOW THE BIBLE IS ORGANIZED: Key Concepts
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Read 2 Timothy 3:16

This lesson teaches two key concepts for understanding the Bible:

- 1. God gives us the Holy Bible. We learn about God from the Bible. The Bible is the only truth about God.***

- 2. The Holy Spirit makes our faith strong.***

Lesson 7 – Open your Bible...

1. “*The Bible is like a library.*” Explain what that means.

The Bible is a collection of 66 different books by many different writers.

2. “*Reading the Bible is like eating at a restaurant.*” Explain what that means.

We select parts of the Bible to read like selecting meals on a restaurant menu.

Lesson 8 – The Old Testament

1. What does the word TESTAMENT mean?

Covenant, Promise

2. What are the four main parts of the Old Testament?

- (a) Law***
- (b) History***
- (c) Poetry***
- (d) Prophecy***

3. The Old Testament has many promises. What is the most important promise in the Old Testament?

God will send a Savior.

Lesson 9 – The New Testament

1. The New Testament reports that God kept (fulfilled) the most important promise that He made in the Old Testament. What did God do?

God sent the Savior, Jesus

2. What are the four main parts of the New Testament?

- (a) Gospels***
- (b) History (with Gospels)***
- (c) Epistles***
- (d) The apocalypse (Revelation)***

Lesson 10 – The Canon of Scripture – How we got the Bible (part 2)

1. The “Canon of Scripture” means what?

List of books

2. The word INSPIRED means what?

God-breathed

3. Who inspired the writers of the 66 books of the Bible?

God the Holy Spirit

Lesson 11 – Ways to use your Bible.

1. The word DOCTRINE means what?

Teaching

2. How do we get eternal life (as the Bible teaches)?

By trusting Jesus Christ

3. How does the Bible help us worship?

In our worship we read Bible lessons, we sing songs from the Bible, we learn about prayer from the Bible (Lord’s Prayer).

4. How does the Bible show us the way to live?

Ten Commandments; love one another; forgive one another.

Lesson 12 – Steps for studying the Bible

1. This lesson teaches four steps for studying the Bible:

(a) Expectant, hopeful approach to God’s Word --- study the Bible with faith, wanting to follow the Lord

(b) Honest inquiry – (a) Read (b) “Lord, You are telling me what? Teaching me what, to do what?”

(c) Responsive prayer (a) Read (b) Pray about the things we learn

(d) Action with goal

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2. We internalize God's Word, how?

We put God's Word into our minds.

3. We externalize God's Word, how?

We follow and obey the Bible.

Lesson 13 – Chapters & Verses
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1. Original Bible writers did not write the Bible with chapter and verse numbers. Later Bible students added those numbers. Why?

To help us study the Bible, to easily find places that we want in to read in the Bible.

2. How many chapters are in these books of the Bible:

Genesis 50

Matthew 28

Psalms 150

Mark 16

Isaiah 66

Philemon 1

Jonah 4

Revelation 22

3. Psalm 1 has how many verses 6
4. Psalm 117 has how many verses 2
5. Psalm 119 has how many verses 176

Lesson 14 – The best way to read and study the Bible

1. Which is the best way to read and study the Bible? (Check the right answer.)

Each verse separately by itself

Whole paragraphs and chapters

2. Why is that the best way to read the Bible?

When we read whole paragraphs, we understand the message more clearly.

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3. Some Bible versions (translations) have chapter headings.
How do those chapter headings help us study the Bible with greater understanding?

Headings describe the topic of chapters and paragraphs.

Lesson 15 – Meditating on Scripture
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1. What does it mean to **meditate** on a Bible verse? How should we meditate on Bible verses?

learn the meaning of each word, & think about it.

Who is speaking in this verse?

What is God saying to me in this verse?

This verse tells me that God wants me to do.... what?

Turn the verse into a prayer to God.

2. Who is “The Word”?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God

3. As Christians come together to study God’s Word and prayer, who else also joins that group?

Jesus Christ

Lesson 16 – Divine Authorship of the Bible

1. Today God communicates with us, how?

Through the Bible

2. What is the most important thing that God tells us the Bible?

His plan to save us through faith in Jesus Christ.

3. How is the Bible different than all other books?

God is the real author of the Bible.

The Bible is completely true.

The Bible teaches us how to have eternal life.

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Answer Key

4. If Moses and other people wrote various parts of the Bible, how is God the real author of the Bible?

God gave the writers the thoughts and words to write.

Lesson 17 – How God Communicates With People

1. The word REVELATION means what?

Inform people about things they can't know on their own.

2. In Bible times, God communicated with people various ways. In the following verses, how did God communicate?

- (a) *Genesis 41:15–25.....dream*
- (b) *Exodus 24:12.....writing*
- (c) *Judges 6:7–10prophet*
- (d) *Judges 6:11–12angel*
- (e) *1 Samuel 3:1–10.....voice*
- (f) *Matthew 2:11–12dream*
- (g) *Luke 1:26–38.....angel*
- (h) *Acts 9:10–12.....vision*
- (i) *Acts 11:4–6.....vision*
- (j) *Acts 11:27–29.....prophet*

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Lesson 18 – Powerful Acts of God

Match powerful acts of God with sections of the Bible that describe those acts:

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) <i>Genesis 1 & 2</i> | (c) <i>God created the world.</i> |
| (2) <i>Exodus 12–14; 19–20</i> | (b) <i>God freed His people from Egypt & gave His Law on Mt Sinai.</i> |
| (3) <i>2 Chronicles 36:15–23</i> | (e) <i>God punished Israel in the Babylonian captivity.</i> |
| (4) <i>Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John</i> | (a) <i>God revealed Himself in His Son Jesus Christ, through His life, crucifixion, death, and resurrection.</i> |
| (5) <i>Acts 2</i> | (d) <i>God sent the Holy Spirit's power to the Disciples to help them preach about Jesus to the world.</i> |

Lesson 19 – God's Messengers

1. In the Old Testament times, whom did God send to tell people about Him?

Prophets

2. In the New Testament times, who showed us what God is like?

Jesus Christ

Lesson 20 – Why God gave us the Bible

1. Why did God give us His Word, the Bible? (What is the MOST IMPORTANT reason?)

God does not want us to forget His Word, His work and mighty actions. He wants us to know Him, to be saved, and to live right.

Read 2 Timothy 3:15–17

2. These verses list important ways the Bible helps us. Write that list here:

Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

***All Scripture is useful
for teaching
for showing people what is wrong in their lives
for correcting faults
for teaching how to live right.
be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work.***

Lesson 21 – Inspiration of Scripture

1. The word INSPIRED has two different meanings:
(a) The world's meaning

A feeling people have in seeing something wonderful.

- (b) The Bible's meaning

“God breathed” His Word into the Bible writers.

Read John 6:66–69

2. In these verses, Peter says that Jesus' words give us what?

Eternal life

Lesson 22 – Bible Writers

1. What were various occupations (jobs) of the writers of the Bible?

Priests, prophets, kings, shepherds, farmers, fishermen, doctor, tent-maker

2. Why are their words in the Bible really God's words?

God gave them the words to write.

3. It is important that we read and study the Bible every day. Why?

***So we will know God and His love.
We will know Jesus and not forget.
We will know how to live.
We will not forget what His Word teaches us.***

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Lesson 23 – The Word of God

(1) Read:

Psalm 33:6

Isaiah 55:10–11

2 Peter 3:3–7

In these verses “Word of God” means **God’s Power -- creation by His Word**

(2) Read:

John 1:1 & 14

Revelation 19:11–16

In these verses “Word of God” means **Jesus Christ, God’s Son**

(3) Read:

Ephesians 1:13

Colossians 1:3–5

In these verses “Word of Truth” means **The Gospel messages**

(4) Read:

Ephesians 6:17

2 Peter 1:19

Hebrews 4:12

In these verses “Word of God” means **The Bible**

Lesson 24 – Authority of Scripture

1. In what ways does the Bible have AUTHORITY?

The Bible is true. The Bible is inerrant (never wrong).

All teaching about God and the way of salvation come only from the Bible and must agree with the Bible. The Bible judges all doctrine.

2. How can we know if any religious teaching or doctrine is right or the teaching is wrong?

All teaching must come from the Bible and must agree with the Bible. If any teaching does not agree with the Bible, then it is wrong.

Lesson 25 – PRINCIPLES FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
#1. Follow the intended meaning.

1. What does it mean that we INTERPRET the Bible?

Analyze and understand the Bible.

Often we also need to research and carefully study the text, learn all we can about the history, culture, and language of the text, so we can correctly understand it.

2. Bible students must use correct principles when they study the Bible.
Why is this important?

So we can understand the Bible correctly – the writer’s intended meaning and apply that to our lives.

Read Acts 6:7

See the sentence:

“So the word of God spread.” (NIV)

“So God’s word spread.” (NIRV)

“And the word of God increased.” (KJV)

“Then the word of God spread.” (NKJV)

“And the word of God continued to increase.” (ESV)

3. What does that sentence mean?

Many more people believed the Gospel – they became Christians.

Lesson 26 – PRINCIPLES FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
#2. Understand the difference between
LITERAL and FIGURATIVE (SYMBOLIC) text

1. Read the Bible verses below and decide if they are literal or figurative:

(a) Exodus 14:21–22....***literal***

(b) Psalm 23:1–2.....***figurative***

(c) Isaiah 55:1–2.....***figurative***

(d) John 2:19–21***figurative***

(e) John 13:4–5.....***literal***

(f) Acts 28:1–6.....***literal***

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2. Write the meaning for Jesus' symbolic words:

a) "I am the gate for the sheep."(John 10:7)

Jesus is the way for people for to be saved.

b) "You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world..." (Matthew 5:13–16)

SALT: You have a positive influence in the world.

LIGHT: We tell people the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Read Matthew 13:44–46.

3. Here Jesus compares what?

v. 44 ***the Kingdom of Heaven*** is like ***a treasure hidden in a field***

v. 45 ***the Kingdom of Heaven*** is like ***a man looking for fine pearls***

Read Luke 8:4–8.

4. Explain the word pictures in this parable. (Hint: Read Luke 8:11–15.)

(a) the seed = ***the Word of God -- God's message***

(b) the seed falling on the path = ***people who don't believe***

(c) the seed on the rocky place = ***people who believe for a short time. When trouble hits, they fall away.***

(d) the seed among the weeds (thorns) = ***people who believe, but their faith is choked by the worries and pleasures of the world.***

(e) the seed falling on good soil = ***people who believe and stay faithful loving and serving God.***

Lesson 27 – PRINCIPLES FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
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#3. Read and understand every verse of the Bible in its CONTEXT
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1. How do we read a Bible verse in its context?

Read the whole paragraph, the whole chapter, the whole book.

Remember that the context of every verse in the Bible is Law and Gospel – the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

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Read Matthew 24:40–42.

2. These verses teach about the second coming of Jesus Christ. Many Christians swallow false teaching about these verses because they forget to read the context.

- a. Those who are “taken” = **unbelievers(lost people)**.
- b. Those who are “left” = **saved people**.

IMPORTANT HINT: Read the context (verses 37–39).

3. What is the most important teaching of the Bible?

the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Lesson 28 – PRINCIPLES FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
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#4. Interpret Scripture in harmony with itself

Read and understand every verse as it fits with every other verse of the Bible
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1. How do John 10 and 1 Peter 2 help us understand Psalm 23?

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep. Jesus takes care of us like a shepherd takes care of his sheep. Jesus protects us from the devil and Jesus gives up His life for us.

2. What is the connection between the way the world began and the way the world will end?

***The world began by God’s command and by His power.
The world will end by God’s command and by His power.***

***God created the earth surrounded by water.
God will destroy the earth by fire.***

3. What do these verses teach us about the power of God’s Word?

God’s Word is all powerful. God’s Word created the whole world, and created life.

Lesson 29 – PRINCIPLES FOR INTERPRETING THE BIBLE
#5. Interpret Scripture Christologically (Christ focus)

1. Where in the Bible do we find the Gospel about Jesus Christ?

The whole Bible – both OT and NT.

2. Study the following prophecies of the Old Testament and their fulfillment in the New Testament. Write down what was fulfilled:

PROPHECY What will happen	FULFILLMENT What happened
Isaiah 7:14 <i>A virgin will give birth to a son & will name him “Immanuel.”</i>	Matthew 1:18-25 <i>The Holy Spirit conceived Jesus in the womb of Mary.</i>
Psalms 78:2 <i>“I will tell a story... about things that were hidden.”</i>	Matthew 13:34,35 <i>Jesus taught using stories (parables).</i>
Zechariah 11:12-13 <i>They paid me thirty pieces of silver. The Lord said to me, “Throw the money to the potter.” That is how little they thought I was worth.</i>	Matthew 27:3-9 <i>Judas was paid 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus. Judas threw the money in the temple. The priests used that money to buy a potter’s field.</i>
Joel 2:28–32 <i>God will pour out His Holy Spirit on people. They will announce His Word.</i>	Acts 2:1–21 <i>God poured out His Holy Spirit on the Disciples on Pentecost.</i>

Read Genesis 12:1-3

3. God made a four promises to Abram (Abraham).

(a) What was the last thing that God promised to Abram?

***You will be a blessing to others...
All nations on earth will be blessed because of you.***

(b) How is that promise fulfilled by Jesus Christ?

***Jesus Christ is descended from Abraham.
All people trusting in Jesus receive eternal life.***

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Read Numbers 21:4–9; John 3:14

4. How do the following points in the Old Testament snake story apply to our connection with Christ?
- (a) The people rebelling = ***all people are sinners, rebelling against God.***
 - (b) The people's sickness & death = ***Sin brings us physical death and eternity in hell.***
 - (c) The snake on the pole = ***Jesus crucified on the cross.***
 - (d) The way people were healed = ***Faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice.***

Lesson 30 – Tools for Understanding the Bible
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1. As we study the Bible, we must analyze each verse to see where that verse fits into two important categories:

LAW or GOSPEL

2. The last part of this lesson names two kinds of tools we use to study the Bible:
- (a) ***grammatical historical tools***
 - (b) ***theological tools***

Lesson 31 – TOOLS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE Language & Grammar

Concordance exercise

For questions #1 and #2 below, use a concordance (look in the back of your Bible) or use an online Bible search website, like www.biblegateway.com/keyword

1. Find three Bible verses that talk about FAITH.

Student answers will vary

2. Where in the Bible is the story about David adultery with Bathsheba? (What chapters?)

2 Samuel 11 & 12

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Read Mark 1:16–18; Luke 10:1–3; Matthew 28:19,20.

3. What points in these three Bible texts are similar (the same)?

Jesus calls disciples and sends them to tell people about Him.

4. What information in these three Bible texts is different?

Mark 1 – Jesus called Peter & Andrew to follow Him.

Luke 10 – Jesus sent 72 disciples to places Jesus planned to visit.

Matthew 28 – Jesus commands us to make disciples in all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.

Lesson 32 – Historical Background Tool

1. Luke wrote his gospel for whom? (verse 3) ***Theophilus***

2. From whom did Luke get his information about Jesus? (verse 2) ***eyewitnesses who had been with Jesus from the beginning.***

3. Luke's gospel about Jesus began at what time in Israel's history? (verse 5)
When Herod was king.

4. Who was ruler of the Roman world when Jesus was born? ***Caesar Augustus***

5. The Roman emperor made a political decision that affected Mary and Joseph at the time of Jesus' birth. What was the emperor's command?

***Everyone must register for the census.
Everyone must go to the city of their family.***

6. Why did Joseph and Mary go from Nazareth to Bethlehem?

***Joseph was descended from King David. David's family city is Bethlehem.
Joseph must go there for the census.***

7. Look at a New Testament Bible map:

(a) Where in Israel is Nazareth?

Northern Israel, in Galilee, west of the Sea of Galilee.

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(b) Where in Israel is Bethlehem?

Southern Israel, in Judea, west of the Dead Sea and Jordan River.

(c) What is the distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem?

About 30 miles (100 Km)

(d) Why did Mary and Joseph lay baby Jesus in a manger (animal feeding box) instead of a normal bed?

There was no room for them in the inn.

Read Galatians 1:1–6

8. Who wrote this letter? ***Paul***

9. To whom did he write this letter? (verse 2) ***people of the churches of Galatia***

10. What serious problem did these people have? ***They turned from following Christ to believe a different “gospel.”***

11. Who made Paul become an Apostle? ***Jesus Christ & God the Father***

Lesson 33 – The Tool of Culture
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Watch Part 33 video.

1. Describe some differences between Deaf culture and Hearing culture.

Student answers will vary.

Read Ruth 4:1–10 -- *This story describes many things in the culture of that time and place, things that we don't do in our culture today.*

2. Make a list of those different cultural practices in this story.

[Student answers will vary.]

Legal business was done at the city gate. (v1)

Elders of the city were needed to be witnesses for legal business (v2,11).

Inheritance laws preferred sale of land within the family by a family “redeemer”. (v1,3)

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Childless widows marries her husband's relative to continue her husband's family line. (v5-6,10)

Legal transactions were sealed by taking off a sandal and giving it to the other person. (v7-8)

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19–23

3. What Paul do did to introduce people in various cultures to Jesus.

To the Jews I became like a Jew. That was to win the Jews.

To those under the law I became like one who was under the law. That was to win those under the law.

To those who don't have the law I became like one who doesn't have the law. Now I can win those who don't have the law.

To those who are weak I became weak. That was to win the weak. I have become all things to all people.

Lesson 34 – Theological Tools

1. What are the two chief teachings of the Bible?

(a) **LAW**

(b) **GOSPEL**

2. Summarize each of those teachings in one or two sentences:

(a) ***The Law shows us that we are sinners. The Law describes what we should do but we fail to do; and what we should not do, but we do anyway.***

(b) ***The Gospel us our Savior. The Gospel describes what Jesus did by suffering and dying on the cross to pay our penalty so that we can be forgiven and receive eternal life.***

Lesson 35 – The Law of God: “Curb”

How is the Law of God like a “curb”?

The Law motivates us to do what is right in order to avoid punishment. Example: When we drive, we obey traffic laws so we don't get a ticket.

Lesson 36 – The Law of God: “Mirror”

How is the Law of God like a “mirror”?

God’s holy Law shows us our sins.

Lesson 37 – The Law of God: “Guide”

How is the Law of God like a “guide”?

God’s Law teaches us what God wants us to do. As believers we obey God’s Law because we love God and we want to please Him.

Lesson 38 – Three Functions of the Law

Read these Bible texts. Check if they use the Law as a **curb**, **mirror**, or **guide**.

1. Psalm 119:10- 106 **Guide**
2. Proverbs 24:21-22 **Curb**
3. Romans 3:20 **Mirror**
4. Romans 7:7 **Mirror**
5. Galatians 6:2 **Guide**
6. Ephesians 5:15-20..... **Guide**
7. 1 Peter 2:13-14..... **Curb**

Lesson 39 – Law and Gospel

Check each statement as **LAW** or **GOSPEL**

1. **Law** Teaches what we are to do and not to do.
2. **Gospel**..... Teaches us what God has done, and still does, for our salvation.
3. **Law** Shows us our sin and the anger of God.
4. **Gospel**..... Shows us our Savior and the grace of God.
5. **Law** Must be preached to everyone, but especially to sinners who are not repenting.
6. **Gospel**..... Must be preached to sinners who are sorry about their sins.

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Check each text as LAW or GOSPEL

7. **Law** Matthew 23:27–28
8. **Law** Mark 7:20–23
9. **Gospel** John 10:14–18
10. **Gospel** Acts 2:37–39
11. **Gospel** Romans 1:16
12. **Law** Romans 1:18
13. **Gospel** Romans 5:1
14. **Gospel** Ephesians 2:7–8
15. **Gospel** Colossians 1:13–14

Lesson 40 – Justification and Grace
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1. What does JUSTIFICATION mean?

***God declares a sinner “innocent.”
Jesus takes away our sin and He saves us.***

2. What does GRACE mean?

God’s love. Our salvation is God’s free gift.

3. The Bible teaches that God **justifies** us by **grace** through **faith**.
What does that mean?

***We don’t earn salvation. Salvation is God’s free gift.
We receive that free gift by trusting God and His Word.
Faith means that the sinner depends on God to save him.
Faith is a free gift.***

Lesson 41 – Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

1. How does a student of the Bible “rightly divide the word of truth”?

We “rightly divide the word of truth” when we understand each text of the Bible as either LAW or GOSPEL.

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Read Romans 6:23

2. Which words of this verse teach Law?

[NIRV] When you sin, the pay you get is death.

[ESV] the wages of sin is death

3. Which words of this verse teach Gospel?

[NIRV] God gives you the gift of eternal life. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

[ESV] the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Read John 3:14–18

4. Which verses of this text teach Law?

Verse 18b

[NIRV] anyone who does not believe is judged already. They have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

[ESV] whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

5. Which verses teach Gospel?

verses 14-18a

[NIRV] Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. In the same way, the Son of Man must also be lifted up. Then everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him. Anyone who believes in him is not judged.

[ESV] And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned,

6. 2 Corinthians 5 says, "The old has gone, the new has come."

What does that mean?

When we receive God's gift of salvation, He takes away our sin and He makes us His children; He makes us new people, holy in Christ Jesus.

Lesson 42 – Important Old Testament Concepts

Read Deuteronomy 6

1. This chapter summarizes important Old Testament concepts.

List the most important concepts in this text:

- (a) verse 1–2 ***Obey God’s laws. If Israel honors the Lord, they will enjoy long life.***
- (b) verse 4 ***The Lord is God, and He alone is God. There is no other god.***
- (c) verse 5 ***Love the Lord with all your heart... soul... and strength.***
- (d) verse 7 ***Teach God’s commandments to your children all day every day***
- (e) verse 14 ***Don’t serve the gods of the nations.***

2. What are some other important lessons that the Old Testament teach us?

***History: How God made the world. How sin began.
God work and plan for the nation of Israel.***

God’s character and His covenants.

Wisdom: Principles for godly living.

Salvation: God promised to send Messiah, the Savior.

3. What is the main goal of the whole Bible, both Old Testament and New Testament?

Introduce us to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Lesson 43 – Important New Testament Concepts

What is the basic goal of the New Testament?

Show Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God, and Savior of the world.

Explain what Jesus did to save us: suffer and die for our sins, and rise again.

Explain how we receive God’s gift and become His friend through faith in Christ.

Lesson 44 – Analyzing and Understanding History

Read Luke 1:51–52 & Jeremiah 18:1–10

1. God used the example of a potter to teach Jeremiah a lesson about what?

God may change His plans for a nation (or people) because of the way they respond to His message. If they repent, He will forgive them. If they sin, He will punish them.

Read Matthew 28:1–15 & John 20:1–18

2. Compare those two stories about Jesus' resurrection:

- (a) How are the two stories the same?

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Jesus. The stone had been moved away from the entrance of the tomb. The tomb was empty. Mary saw an angel. Mary learned that Jesus had risen from the dead. Mary told the disciples that the tomb was empty. Mary saw Jesus alive.

- (b) How are the two stories different?

***Details that Matthew includes that are missing from John's report:
Another woman went with Mary Magdalene to the tomb.
An angel moved the stone and the soldiers fainted.
The soldiers told the priests.
The priests paid the soldiers to lie about what really happened.***

***Details that John includes that are missing from Matthew's report:
There were two angels at the tomb, not just one.
When Mary first saw Jesus, she did not recognize Him. She thought the He was the gardener.
Peter and John went to the tomb to investigate the women's report.
John describes who arrived first, who went into the tomb first, and what he saw in the tomb.***

- (c) How do both stories together give us better understanding about Jesus' resurrection?

When we put the details together, we get a more complete picture of what happened at the tomb, and how various people responded.

Lesson 45 – Analyzing and Understanding Prophecy

1. The prophets received their message from whom?

The Lord God

2. What was the prophets' main work?

***The prophets' main work was to speak for God.
Prophet's job was to warn and encourage God's people to obey God and
do His will.***

Read Jeremiah 25:1–14

3. The Lord said what will happen to the land of Judah?

***I will send for my servant Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon... I will set
apart Judah and the nations around it in a special way to be destroyed...
This whole country will become dry and empty.***

4. How many years will the people of Israel serve the King of Babylon? **70**

5. Then what will happen to Babylon?

***I will make that land a desert forever... The people of Babylon will become
slaves of many other nations and great kings. I will pay them back for what
they have done.***

Read Ezekiel 37:1–14

6. Ezekiel saw a vision of dry bones. Those bones represented whom?

The people of Israel (v.11)

7. Those bones in Ezekiel's vision became living humans. That represented what?

***The people of Israel will return to their land and they will live as a nation
again (v.11,14)***

Read Isaiah 53

8. The following New Testament verses point to Isaiah's prophecy. Write the number of the verse from Isaiah 53 we find in each the following New Testament texts. (The first one is done for you as an example.)

(a) Matthew 8:16–17 → Isaiah 53: 4

(b) Matthew 27:57–60 → Isaiah 53: **9**

(c) John 1:10–11 → Isaiah 53: **3**

How to Study & Understand the Bible
Answer Key

- (d) John 12:37–38 → Isaiah 53: **1**
- (e) Acts 8:26–37 → Isaiah 53: **7-8**
- (f) Romans 5:18–19 → Isaiah 53: **11**
- (g) Romans 8:34 → Isaiah 53: **12**
- (h) 1 Peter 2:21–22 → Isaiah 53: **9**
- (i) 1 Peter 2:24 → Isaiah 53: **5**
- (j) 1 Peter 2:25 → Isaiah 53: **6**

Lesson 46 – Analyzing and understanding Poetry in the Bible
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- (1) Read Psalm 145:8
 - (a) Explain how the two lines are similar:

Each line uses two words or phrases that describe God’s love and mercy.

- (b) Explain how they are different:

***There is not much difference between the two lines.
The first line uses two similar positive words (kind & merciful).
The second line uses two contrasting phrases, one negative and the other positive (slow to anger & full of love).***

- (2) Read Psalm 145:10
 - (a) Explain how the two lines are similar:

Both lines same the same thing – people will (1) praise and (2) bless God.

- (b) Explain how they are different:

Line 2 narrows the focus from “everything” to “those who belong to You.”

- (3) Read Psalm 145:20
 - (a) Explain how the two lines are similar:

Both lines describe what to the Lord will do for people, depending how the respond to Him.

- (b) Explain how they are different:

***The lines contrast:
(1) everyone who loves Him, vs. (2) the wicked,
and God’s response to (1) protect vs. (2) destroy.***

How to Study & Understand the Bible
Answer Key

(4) Read Psalm 22:1–18 & Matthew 27:35–46

- (a) Psalm 22 is a **messianic psalm** because it has prophecy about Jesus Christ in future years. What specific things did Psalm 22 predict about Jesus' crucifixion?

Ps 22:1 Jesus' prayer: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Christ suffered.

Ps 22:6-7 People made fun of Jesus.

Ps 22:8 = Matt. 27:34 Priests and leaders mock Jesus: "He trusts in God, so let God save him now, if God really wants him."

Ps 22:12,13,16 People who hate Jesus surround Him and accuse Him.

Ps 22:14,17 describes Jesus' physical suffering on the cross.

Ps 22:18 = Matt 27:35 "They divided my clothes among them, and they threw lots for my clothing."

- (b) Psalm 22 has both LITERAL and FIGURATIVE language. Describe some of the figurative word-pictures in Psalm 22. (Example: verse 6. "I am a worm and not a man.")

People have surrounded me like angry bulls.
Like the strong bulls of Bashan, they are on every side.
Like hungry, roaring lions they open their mouths at me.
My strength is gone, like water poured out onto the ground...
My heart is like wax; it has melted inside me.
My strength has dried up like a clay pot...
Evil people have surrounded me;
like dogs they have trapped me.
They have bitten my arms and legs.

(5) Read Proverbs 15:13

Find the first part and the second part of this verse. Write two things from the first part that are "opposite" of two things in the second part:

(a) **A happy heart** is the opposite of **a sad heart.**

(b) **A cheerful faces** is the opposite of **a broken spirit.**

Lesson 47 – Analyzing and Understanding the Gospels

1. Names the four gospel writers: **Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**
2. Which of the gospel writers belonged to Jesus' 12 Disciples? **Matthew, John**
3. What was Matthew's job before Jesus called him to follow? **Tax collector**
4. Mark help two men in their work. Who were those two men?
Barnabas and Saul (Paul),
5. What was Luke's job? **Doctor**
6. What was John's job before Jesus called him to follow? **Fisherman**
7. Which two gospels describe the things that happened during Jesus' birth (the Christmas story)?
Matthew, Luke
8. Those two gospel versions of the Christmas story have some information that is the same in both, and they have information that very different.
 - (a) What information in those two gospels is the same in both?

Mary was a virgin.
Mary was engaged to Joseph.
Mary became pregnant by power of the Holy Spirit.
An angel informed both Mary and Joseph about
Mary's pregnancy
the baby's name (Jesus)
the baby's ancestry (King David)
Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
Joseph, Mary, and Jesus went back to live in Nazareth.

- (b) What information in those two gospels is different?

Matthew's information that is not included in Luke's report:
Joseph wanted to divorce Mary.
An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him to marry
Mary.
Joseph did not have sex with Mary until after Jesus was born.
Magi (Wise Men) came to visit, following a star.
Herod tried to kill Jesus by ordering his soldiers to kill all male
boys in Bethlehem two years-old and younger.
Joseph, Mary, and Jesus escaped to Egypt.

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Answer Key

Luke's information that is not included in Matthew's report:
Mary (and Joseph) lived in Nazareth in Galilee.
Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem because of the census ordered by Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus.
Jesus was laid in a manger because there was no room in the inn.
Angels appeared shepherds about the Savior's birth; the shepherds went to see Jesus.
Stories about:
Jesus' circumcision
Simeon and Anna
Boy Jesus (age 12) visited the temple. He stayed behind for three days until Mary and Joseph found Him.

- (c) Make a guess as to reason that the two gospels are different in the way they tell the Christmas story.

Matthew focuses on Joseph's experience.
Luke reports Mary's experience.

9. Which two gospels report Jesus' genealogy (family tree)?

Matthew, Luke

10. Which gospel tells about something that happened when Jesus was a young boy?

Luke

11. What sentence or phrase did Matthew often use in his gospel?

This happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet...

12. What point was Matthew trying to prove when he wrote that phrase?

Jesus is the Messiah that God promised in the Old Testament.

13. This is the **Great Commission**. Write a summary of these verses in your own words: Jesus sends us to do....what?

Teach all people in all nations about Jesus. Baptized them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

14. Why did Luke write his gospel about Jesus?

So Theophilus (and we) could know for certain the truth about Jesus.

How to Study & Understand the Bible
Answer Key

15. Why did John write his gospel about Jesus?

So we would believe that Jesus is Christ (the Messiah) and in believing, we will have eternal life.

16. What is the benefit of having four different gospel reports about Jesus' life (instead of having just one gospel)?

When we put the details of all four gospels together, we get a more complete picture of what Jesus said and did, and why He did it.

Lesson 48 – Analyzing and Understanding the Epistles

1. The word “epistle” means what? **“Letter”**

2. The video lesson describes five parts to the form of New Testament epistles. What are those five parts:

- (a) The writer introduces himself***
- (b) The writer greets the people***
- (c) The theme of the letter***
- (d) The body of the letter***
- (e) The writer’s final greetings***

3. Read the first few verses in each of the New Testament epistles. Identify who wrote the letter and to where or to whom he sent the letter:

Read chapter 1:	This letter is FROM whom?	This letter is TO where or whom?
Romans	v.1 Paul	v.7 Rome
1 Corinthians	v.1 Paul (& Sosthenes)	v.2 Corinth
2 Corinthians	v.1 Paul (& Timothy)	v.1 Corinth (in Achaia/Greece)
Galatians	v.1 Paul	v.2 Galatia
Ephesians	v.1 Paul	v.1 Ephesus
Philippians	v.1 Paul (& Timothy)	v.1 Philippi
Colossians	v.1 Paul (& Timothy)	v.2 Colosse
1 Thessalonians	v.1 Paul, Silas, Timothy	v.1 Thessalonica
2 Thessalonians	v.1 Paul, Silas, Timothy	v.1 Thessalonica
1 Timothy	v.1 Paul	v.2 Timothy

How to Study & Understand the Bible
Answer Key

Read chapter 1:	This letter is FROM whom?	This letter is TO where or whom?
2 Timothy	v.1 Paul	v.2 Timothy
Titus	v.1 Paul	v.2 Titus
Philemon	v.1 Paul	v.1-2 Philemon (& Apphia, Archippus)
Hebrews	(unknown)	(To Jewish Christians in Rome)
James	v.1 James	v.1 The 12 Tribes
1 Peter	v.2 Peter	v.1 God's chosen people in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia & Bithynia
2 Peter	v.1 Peter	v.1 you who have received faith
1 John	John the Apostle	(not identified)
2 John	v.1 The Elder	v.1 the chosen lady & her children
3 John	v.1 The Elder	v.1 Gaius
Jude	v.1 Jude	v.1 you who have been chosen by God

4. Who wrote most of the letters in the New Testament? **Paul**

5. Why did Paul write this letter to the Christians in Rome?

Paul planned to visit Rome to encourage Christians there.

6. What is the theme of Paul's letter to the Romans?

FAITH that receives God's righteousness.

7. Why did Paul write this first letter to the Corinthians?

Christians in Corinth were arguing with each other.

8. Why did Paul write this second letter to the Corinthians? **To comfort them.**

9. Why did Paul write this letter to the Christians in Galatia?

After Paul left, other people came to confuse Christians in Galatia, teaching them a false "gospel."

How to Study & Understand the Bible
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10. Why did Paul write this letter to the Christians in Philippi?

Paul wrote to thank them for their gift and support for his work.

11. What important teaching did Paul give the Christians in Thessalonica?

The second coming of Christ.

12. Who was Onesimus?

***Philemon's slave, who stole from Philemon and ran away.
Paul led Onesimus to trust Christ.
Then Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon.***

13. The Letter to the Hebrews is about whom? ***Jesus, the Son of God***

Final Exam

1. Describe the Bereans' attitude about God's Word.

The Bereans studied the Scriptures to see if the things that Paul taught them were true.

2. What should be our attitude about the Bible?

We should study God's Word, meditate on it, memorize it, believe it, obey it, and discuss it in our families.

[Students' answers for the remaining questions will vary.]

Read Matthew 6:25–34

3. A teenager and a senior citizen may read these verses in different ways, as they apply Jesus' words to their lives.

(a) What might these verses say to a teenage Christian?

(b) What might these verses say to a senior citizen?

How to Study & Understand the Bible
Answer Key

Read 2 Corinthians 13:12

3. Paul tells Christians to "greet one another with a holy kiss."
How may this passage be applied in the "culture" in church fellowship today?

Select ONE of the texts below. Use these steps in your study of this passage:

Psalm 23:1

Psalm 23:4

Matthew 7:15–20

Romans 8:37–39

5. The text I chose is _____
6. What does the text say? (in your own words)
7. What does this text mean?
8. What does this text mean to me?