

Lesson 1: The Uniqueness of the Bible

KEY ASPECTS:

- The bible is unique to other books
- The bible is a communication with us
- The bible has the power to impact our lives for the better today
 - “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps. 46:10) is to help us recognize that the Bible is still God’s greatest gift to communicate His plan of Redemption.

Sabbath

The Bible is unique in its content and message; it focuses on God’s redemptive acts in history.

Sunday

Jesus is the focus and purpose of all scripture.

- The Song of Moses states that God is Protection, a Rock. That His works are perfect and incapable of injustice (Deuteronomy 32: 4). It describes how God lovingly tended to His children from the beginning, as an eagle hovers and anticipates the needs of its young (v11). Describes how God provided a home of comfort and abundance for them (v13-14). Sadly, God’s children failed to live up to their Father’s character. Instead, they rejected their Protector (v15). And started to sacrifice to demons, aka false gods, in place of the true God (v16). Thus, God hid His face or withdrew His presence from them as a result of their rejection (v 20). This led to God’s former children experiencing life without His protection: hunger, pestilence, bitter destruction (v24). Their enemies overpowered them (v25-26). But God is compassionate and will gain justice for His people (v36). None can overpower the might or will of God (v39-42), and He will avenge and deliver His children (v43). When Moses finished his song, he urges the Children of Israel to take to heart these words, lest they forget and descend into sin and destruction (v45–46). Moses warns them that life depends on remembering God (v47).
- The Word of God created life, sustains life, and shines into the darkness for the hope of those who dwell within it. (John 1:1-5)
- Jesus: the Way, Truth, Life, and Bridge to the Father. (John 14:6)

Question: what results have you experienced in your personal obedience to God?

Monday

God historically communicated through a diverse group of individuals. Each bible writer has a different cultural context, education, and personal background. Yet, God inspired all of them to communicate His message of love and redemption.

Moses → born slave adopted by Egyptian princess (Exodus 2:10)

Amos → a shepherd and fruit picker (Amos 7:14)

Jeremiah → a son of a priest (Jeremiah 1:1-6)

Daniel → Hebrew captive turned governor in foreign land (Daniel 1:4-6; 6:1-5)

Matthew → a Hebrew working as a tax collector for the Roman oppressors (Matthew 9:1)

Paul → a Hebrew of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee (Philippians 3:3-6)

John → brother and companion in suffering (Revelation 1:9)

Question: how does the bible’s diverse authorship confirm the trustworthiness of God’s word to you?

Tuesday

The Bible is the Living Word, the historically accurate Word and the prophetic Word of God. There are over 65 prophecies about the Savior in the Old Testament. Here are a few.

- Judah's blessing from his father's Jacob is somewhat unexpected and points to future kingship. (Genesis 49:8–12) Lion of Tribe of Judah
- My strength is gone, pierce My hands and feet, divide My garments among them by casting lots (Psalm 22:12-18).
- We viewed the Lord's Servant, aka the Messiah, as cursed by God instead of comprehending His redemptive actions, which He did not fight but embraced unto death. (Isaiah 53:3–7) He was despised by men, wounded and beaten, oppressed, did not object to His slaughter on our behalf.
- Ruler will come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- A messenger will clear the way for Messenger of the Covenant, the Lord (Malachi 3:1)
- The Savior King comes riding on a donkey colt (Zechariah 9:9)

Question: How does this demonstrate the reliability of scripture to you?

Wednesday

Jesus' resurrection is a historical reality. It is what gives us assurance in the future resurrection of God's people. (1 Cor. 15:3–5, 51–55; Romans 8:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:14)

- Paul affirms the historical reality and accuracy of Christ's death, live and resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:3–5) At the Second Coming of Christ, all of God's people, living and dead, will be restored to the perfection of Creation before the taint of sin touched us. And with this restoration, death will have no power over us. (v 51–55)

Question: Why is the promise of the resurrection central to your faith?

Thursday

The bible has the power to transform lives.

- The rediscovery of the Law changed the lives of king Josiah and the nation of Israel for the better (2 Kings 22:3-30).
- The Holy Spirit will guide us into understanding truth, including scripture (John 16:13, 17:17).
- God's Word is powerful, and our response to it reveals our character (Hebrews 4:12).
- God desires to start the restoration process now through the transforming of our minds and characters to His likeness. (Romans 2:2)

Question: How have you experienced the transformational power of the bible?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is trust in scripture and faith in God inseparable?
2. To what extent do you take scriptures seriously?
3. Why does life depend on remembering God? (Deuteronomy 32)