

## THE BIBLE, GOD'S HOLY WORD

**(Bring several versions of the Bible if you have them available.)**

**(Hold each one up and ask:)**

**-What is this? (Bible)**

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**-Do they look the same on the outside? (Not exactly.)**

**-Does that matter? (No)**

**-What matters is that they each tell the same story on the inside.**

**-Sometimes the title will say "Holy" Bible.**

**-Does anyone know what "Holy" means? (Sacred, set apart by or for God)**

**-The Holy Bible is sacred and set apart by God and for God.**

**-Does anyone remember singing the song "The B-I-B-L-E?"**

**-Can we sing it together?**

**"The B-I-B-L-E,**

**Yes, that's the book for me!**

**I stand alone on the Word of God,**

**The B-I-B-L-E, Bible!"**

**-It is often one of the first songs taught to little children in church, to help them understand how wonderful the Bible is and that it is the Word of God.**

**-Another thing taught to children was a cute saying that correlated with their five fingers. They would hold their five fingers up and point to each one as they would say ALL-GOD'S-WORDS-ARE-TRUE!**

**-Let's do it together! Hold your fingers up and point to them and let's say it together: ALL-GOD'S-WORDS-ARE-TRUE!**

**-These things may seem small and insignificant, maybe even childish, but it is amazing that what we learn as a child, we carry with us the rest of our lives. And what better thing to learn than the Bible is the Word of God and it is true.**

**-It teaches us all we need to know to live this life here on earth.**

**-There is a verse in the Bible written by Paul the apostle to Timothy that reminds us of this. It is our first verse on our Verse Sheet, #1. Let's read it together: (2 Timothy 3:16 "*All Scripture is God-breathed* and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.")**

**-What do the first four words say again? ("*All Scripture is God-breathed*")**

**-Does anyone know what that means? (...)**

**-The Greek meaning is "All scripture is breathed into by God." It's like when we speak, our words come from our breath out of our mouth, which is voicing what is conditioned in our minds and hearts. And when these prophets, scholars and fishermen wrote these Scriptures, their hearts and minds were conditioned by God to breathe out what the Holy Spirit was telling them.**

**-Peter declared in 2 Peter 1:20,21 "No prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but**

men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” Scriptures were God’s breath, God’s words.

-Another way of saying it is God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. (New International Readers Version)

-The Bible is our *Instruction Book* for life, our manual to live by.

-There is a way to remember this. Let’s read it on our Verse Sheet, #2:

B-Basic

I-Instructions

B-Before

L-Leaving

E-Earth

Bible – Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

-This is true. When we leave earth, we want to make sure we are going in the right direction and the Bible tells us all about that.

-Here are some facts about the Bible that I thought you would find interesting:

-It is the best selling book all of history. It has sold more books than any other book in the whole world.

-It was written over a period of 1,500 years, from around the time of Moses (1450 BC) to about 100 AD (following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

-There are 40 different authors.

-They lived on three different continents, some lived in Asia, some in Africa and some in Europe.

-We know that God inspired the Bible. Every author in this Bible, God inspired (meaning God taught) him what to say.

-The Hebrew scribes hand wrote the Bible originally in Hebrew on papyrus or parchment (animal skins). A few portions were written in Aramaic and then later it was translated into Greek.

-Today, we have many translations,

-We think sometimes if I read something and then I write down my opinion of it and then somebody took my opinion and they passed it on, it would probably get watered down. But that is not what happens with the Bible. Every time some group comes to write their translation of the Bible, they go back to the original Hebrew and Greek, the original words to make sure they are representing God’s Word correctly.

-How many of you grew up with the King James Version?(...)

-Do you remember them using “Thee” and “Thou art’ and “Ye shall”?(...)

-The problem is we really don’t talk like that anymore.

-So the Bible has changed a little bit for our language at this time but not its Truths.

-For example, it says “Ye shall love your God’. Then in another translation it says: “You should love your God.” Another says: “Love the Lord your God.”

-Did the meaning change? (No, it is the same. Telling us that we should love God.)

**-So the words may change because we talk a little different, but the truth is still there.**

**-Do you think it is important to read God's Word and know it? (...)**

**-Why? (...)**

**-Let's read our next verse to hear what Jesus has to say about it, #3 on our Verse Sheet:** (John 8:31-32 "Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in Him, 'If you continue in My Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'") (RSV)

**-How does knowing the truth in God's Word make us free?** (It guides us into right thinking, truths that lead us into right decisions and right living. Teaching us to trust in the Lord and His promises to us.)

**-As we read His Word, we learn that it guides us into right thinking which helps us make right decisions. We have to take it all as a whole and not only parts.**

**-Let me give an example: what if a builder decides to build a house but he didn't want to worry about doing the foundation for the house. What would happen to his house?** (It would fall down!)

**-What if you were a cook and you decided, I am not going to use flour this time. How would that cake turn out?** (Flat!)

**-What if you wanted to sew a dress and you decided you didn't want to sew the skirt on to it. Would you have a dress or a mess?** (Half a dress, a mess!)

**-This is the same with the Bible. We can't take it apart and say "I'll believe in this part because it works for me but I don't believe in that because it's just ridiculous or too hard."**

**-We can't do that because ALL God's Words are True.**

**-This is what we have to remember. We can't pick and choose!**

**-Today, we are going to look at some scriptures that tell us about God, His Words and His truths. Let's read our 2<sup>nd</sup> verse on our Verse Sheet together, #4:** (Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.")

**-Who created the heavens and the earth?** (God)

**-According to this verse, does anything exist without God?** (No)

**-So, according to this verse, everything that exists and has its' being is because God created it all. We exist because He created us. He not only created us, but He also created our words, our languages and expressions.**

**-God created all and is above all! Thereby His Word trumps it all, no matter how we feel about it at times. God is God and His Word is His Word!**

**-Let's go to our next verse, #5:** (Deuteronomy 6:5 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.")

**-The New English Translation says "You must love the Lord your God with your whole *mind*, your whole being, and all your strength."**

**-So, how much should we love Him?** (With everything, more than any other thing.)

**-When we think about loving the Lord with our mind, what do you think that means?** (Trusting Him and His Word when we don't understand, loving Him more than our understanding.)

**-Let's read our next verse, #6:** (John 1:1 "In the *beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God.*")

**-Do you know Who the Word is in this verse?** (Jesus)

**-John 1:14 says "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only Son, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."**

**-So, knowing that Jesus is the Word, according to the verse you just read, Who is He?** (God)

**-And how long has He been around?** (Since the beginning.)

**-It is telling us that in the beginning Jesus was with God, He was God. He is part of God. We believe that God is 'God the Father', 'God the Son' and 'God the Holy Spirit'. Humanly it is hard to understand this but in faith we believe because His *Word* tells us this. Again, trusting His Word without understanding.**

**-Let's read our next verse, #7 together:** (John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.")

**-How much did God love us?** (So much so that He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins so we can have everlasting life. It doesn't say we have to go to church to be saved or that we have to be perfect before we can be saved. It doesn't tell us we have to do anything but just believe in our heart that Jesus died for us and receive that gift of Him being our Savior.)

**-This is the kind of God we love and serve. The One and Only God who loved us enough to send His Son. All of that is found in His Word.**

**-Let's read our last verse together, #8 on our Verse Sheet:** (I John 2:25 "And this is what He promised us – *eternal life.*")

**-What is His promise here?** (Eternal Life)

**-The Bible doesn't just tell us how to live life Holy on the earth, it reminds us that Jesus is coming back for us.**

**-If you believe in Him, you are going to be with Him for eternity.**

**-This is what is so wonderful about the Bible. It tells us Who God Is, all His truths to live righteously before Him, and then His promises.**

**-The best being that one day He is going to take us to be with Him forever.**

**-A grandmother once shared that she had the privilege of watching her two grandsons for the day and so she decided to read to them the story of David and Goliath. What little boys do not love the story of David and Goliath?! Once she starting telling the story, one of the boys said "Grandma, I don't believe that story. A little boy couldn't kill a giant." And before she could open her mouth, his brother piped in "Wait! Of course it's true. All God's Words are true! God can do**

everything and anything.” That so blessed this grandmother because without her having to say a word, this grandchild was witnessing to his own brother.

-Just as this young boy took the opportunity to say, “Yes! It’s true.” We too need to take the opportunities to share God’s Words with others and say “Yes! They are true. Even in my own life I have seen His faithfulness and hand of mercy. I have seen His promises come true even for me.”

-I want to end with a sweet little story in the Bible. It is so short that we may overlook it sometimes when we read the Bible. It was a time when Jesus was just a little over a month old and Mary was taking Him to the temple in Jerusalem for purification. At that time there was an elderly man named Simeon. He was a righteous and devout man filled with the Holy Spirit. It says in Luke 2:26 that the Holy Spirit had shown him that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. He was moved by the Spirit to go to the temple the day Mary and Joseph brought Jesus there to dedicate Him. Simeon took the baby in his arms and praised God. He had waited his whole life to see Jesus. He didn’t want to die until he had seen the Savior. And this is what he said:

Luke 2:29-32 “Lord, you are the King over all. Now let me, your servant, go in peace. That is what you promised. My eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the sight of all nations. It is a light to be given to the Gentiles. It will be the glory of your people Israel.” Joseph and Mary were so amazed at Simeon’s words as he continued to bless them.

-After Simeon did this, there in the temple was an elderly prophetess named Anna. She was only married for 7 years and then was a widow for the rest of her life. At 84 she was faithfully serving in the temple day and night. She too was waiting expectantly to see the Christ child. It says that at the very time Simeon was praying, she showed up and broke in an anthem of praise to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the time when Jerusalem would be set free.

-What a sweet story to see these two waiting to see Jesus.

-Here is a question we can ask ourselves from this story, is there anyone you know that is waiting to know Jesus’ loves them? An elderly person? A grandchild? A friend? A worker or an acquaintance? (...)

-You can pray for them, maybe write them a note or letter, anything that would share His love for them.

-Let’s pray and ask the Lord that He will show us a way to share His love and His truths with them so they too may know Him before they die and go and face eternity.

-And remember, all God’s Word’s are true, and that means His Word tells us that He loves them all and will provide a way if we ask and pray.

## “THE BIBLE, GOD’S HOLY WORD” VERSE SHEET

1. **2 Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”
  
2. **B-Basic**  
**I-Instructions**  
**B-Before**  
**L-Leaving**  
**E-Earth**  
**“BIBLE-Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!”**
  
3. **John 8:31-32** “Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in Him, ‘If you continue in My Word, you are truly my disciples, and *you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*”
  
4. **Genesis 1:1** “In the beginning *God* created the heavens and the earth.”
  
5. **Deuteronomy 6:5** “Love the Lord your God with *all* your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
  
6. **John 1:1** “In the *beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God.*”
  
7. **John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
  
8. **I John 2:25** “And this is what He promised us – *eternal life.*”