

Lesson 1

Your New Guide: The Holy Bible

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).

As a new follower of Jesus (*Isa*) you have put your faith in him to guide you on the right path. This does not mean that you now have a new list of do’s and don’ts. What it does mean is that Jesus has paid the price for you to be acceptable in God’s sight. The new path is not a path of law but a path of grace. This is not to say that God did not give laws to his people to obey. But he has also provided enough grace to enable his people to live according to his expectations. God has put you on the right path, and now you trust him to keep you on that path. We will look later at how God put you on that path and what that path is. Now we want to look closer at the guide.

We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God. As God’s Word, the Bible is our rule of faith and conduct. We do not believe that God “sent down” his will or law while remaining separate and unknown. Neither did God dictate his law. In your own words, how did God give his Word to the human race?

1. 2 Peter 1:21 _____.

2. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 _____.

Inspiration means that God breathed his Holy Spirit into men and women so that they were moved to record his revelation accurately and without error. God did not use people like a typewriter or a dictation machine. We believe that God’s Holy Spirit used their personalities, styles, education and experiences so that they wrote precisely what God wanted them to write. The Holy Spirit directed the authorship of Scripture. Even though the Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years by at least 40 authors from different backgrounds, it displays miraculous unity.

As you read Scripture, look for words that are used to mean “God’s message.” Any references to Scripture, the law of the Lord, statutes, Word of God, decrees, commands, precepts, teachings, and so forth, should be understood as portions or the complete Bible. The Bible is revelation. God reveals himself and his law to humankind.

What can nature teach us about God?

3. Psalm 19:1-4 _____.

4. Romans 1:18-20 _____.

Nature provides general revelation. But to understand God’s plan of salvation and to know his will for us we need special revelation.

God is not completely transcendent (separate from his creation). He communicates by interacting in history. How does God communicate in the following verses?

5. Deuteronomy 11:2-7 _____.

6. 1 Samuel 3:21 _____.

7. 1 Samuel 12:6-7 _____.

8. Romans 16:25-27 _____.

What is the purpose of revelation?

9. Psalm 1:1-6 _____.

10. John 8:31-32 _____.

11. 1 Corinthians 10:11 _____.

12. 1 Corinthians 15:4 _____.

13. 2 Timothy 3:15 _____.

14. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 _____.

15. Romans 15:4 _____.

16. Romans 16:25 _____.

17. Hebrews 4:12-13 _____.

In the previous list you learned that revelation provides examples for instruction, gives wisdom, makes disciples, reveals truth, gives freedom, leads to salvation, teaches, reproves, corrects, trains, prophesies, predicts, shows how prophecy is fulfilled, gives hope and establishes you. In other words, Scripture produces disciples. It forms Christ in you, Galatians 4:19. We could sum this up by saying that the Bible is our guide. Since the Bible conveys God’s message, it carries the same authority as if God spoke to you personally. Therefore, it is important that as a disciple you read God’s message daily. Study the Bible and commit as much of Scripture to memory as possible.

Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger. Jesus responded by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3: “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4). Think of God’s words as spiritual food. As the body needs food every day, the spirit also requires daily sustenance. We cannot grow unless we have a healthy diet. We can ingest the Word in several ways. Listen to the anointed biblical preaching and read the Bible, study it,

memorize it, meditate upon it, and most importantly, apply it. If you do not already have a habit of daily prayer and Bible study, begin setting a certain block of time aside each day to pray, read, and meditate on what God is saying to you from the Bible. Always keep a journal handy so you can make observations. What was God’s message for that situation in the Bible? How does it apply today? Write down what you think God is saying to you.

As the Bible is the “Written Word” of God, Jesus Christ is the “Living Word” of God. What does the Bible say about Jesus Christ as God’s revelation?

18. John 1:1-18 _____

19. 2 Corinthians 4:6 _____

20. Hebrews 1:1-3 _____

21. John 14:6-7 _____

22. Matthew 11:27 _____

The way to have the Living Word in our lives is to live in the Word. Christ lives in us when his Word is in us. “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, ‘If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free’” (John 8:31-32, KJV). To continue in the Word also means to obey it. The NIV reads, “To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples’” (John 8:31).

23. What metaphor does Paul use to describe the Word of God as part of an arsenal of spiritual weapons (Ephesians 6:11-18)? _____

24. Memory Verses:

All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

For prophecy 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)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

25. Action:

Read Psalms 119. Reflect on each section. Take a pen and notebook and note all of the benefits of the Word of the Lord. Notice all the terms used to mean God's Word.

26. Rethink the Lesson

- God inspired prophets, apostles and others to write Scripture.
- The Bible is God's written Word.
- The Bible is God's self revelation.
- By reading, internalizing, and obeying the Word we become Christ's disciples.
- The Bible is our guide.

Answers to Lesson 1:

1. Men spoke from God as they were moved, or carried along by the Holy Spirit.
2. God breathed – inspired by God.
3. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. They display knowledge and the voice of creation speaks about the greatness of God.
4. Creation reveals God's invisible qualities.
5. They saw and experienced the discipline of the Lord with their own eyes.
6. He revealed himself to Samuel through his word.
7. He performed righteous acts.
8. Through prophetic writings.
9. Revelation establishes, matures, strengthens, and produces fruit.
10. The reader will know the truth and the truth will set him or her free.
11. Examples and warnings.
12. Fulfill the Scriptures.
13. It makes the disciple wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
14. Teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.
15. Teach and encourage.
16. Establishes the disciple.
17. Penetrates and judges.
18. He is the Word, with God, was God, was with God in the beginning, was the true light, he gave people power to become the sons of God, the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, he came from the Father, brought grace and truth, and he makes known the Father.
19. He is the light that gives us the knowledge of the glory of God.
20. God speaks in these last days through his Son. He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being.
21. Way, truth, and the Life.
22. The Son reveals the Father.
23. Sword of the Spirit.