

KEYS TO BIBLE COMPREHENSION

Introduction

I. MEMORY VERSE: **Psalm 119:11**

II. This series of lessons will take you through some “basics” of Bible study and application.

A. God says the “blessed” man is the one who: “ _____ ”
in God’s word (Psalm 1:2).

1. To “meditate” is to: *“endeavor to understand its meaning; he has pleasure in reflecting on it. It is not a subject which he puts away from him, or in respect to which he is indifferent, but he keeps it before his mind and has satisfaction in doing it”* (Barnes’ Notes - Psalms, p. 4).

2. The same word was used when God spoke to Joshua _____
_____ (Joshua 1:8).

3. Paul stated a similar thing when writing to Timothy _____
_____ (I Timothy 4:15).

B. If we are going to be what God wants us to be, we CANNOT ignore His word! We must spend time in the meditation/study of His word.

III. The purpose of this series is to (among other things):

A. Give us a better understanding of the general “make-up” of the Bible (ex: books of Bible; divisions in Bible, etc.)

B. Teach us how to read the Bible.

C. Teach us how to study the Bible. (There is a DIFFERENCE between reading and studying!)

D. Teach us the theme of the Bible.

E. Teach us the importance and necessity of memory work.

F. Make us better acquainted with many of the principal people in the Bible.

Discussion

I. **YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE!**

A. One thing we must understand is that the Bible can be trusted. It is:

1. Eternal (Psalm 117:2, 100:5, 119:89; Matthew 24:35; I Peter 1:25)

2. Practical (Proverbs; James; etc.)

3. Moral (Matthew 7:12)

4. Truth (John 17:17)

5. Righteous (Psalm 119:172; Romans 1:16-17)

B. The Bible is the standard by which man will be judged one day (John 12:48).

C. The Bible displays a continuity that no other book has. Can you imagine trying to get a group of only 4-5 men to write something on which all were agreed?

1. In order to best accomplish your goal, what might you need to do?

2. Think about this: The Bible was written over a span of 1600 years, (60+ generations) by 40 authors from every walk of life!

3. Name some Biblical writers and their occupations. _____

4. The Bible was written on 3 continents (Asia, Africa, Europe)

5. The Bible was also written in three languages:

a. Hebrew: the language of the Old Testament (II Kings 18:26-28, “language of the Jews” (Judah)); (Isaiah 19:18 “language of Canaan”)

b. Aramaic: it was the “lingua franca” (language widely used as a means of communication among speakers of other languages - Webster’s) during the time of Alexander the Great (6th Century B.C. to 4th Century B.C.).

c. Greek: The international language during the time of Christ and the New Testament.

Bible Basics Curriculum

D. Yet, within the Bible, we find no flaws, no errors, etc. The claims/statements of the Bible have been proven true again and again through the years!

II. THE MAJOR DIVISIONS FOUND IN THE BIBLE:

A. In order to better appreciate the Bible, we need to familiarize ourselves with certain facts.

1. How many books are found in the Bible? _____
2. Can you name all of the books in the Bible? _____ (If not, during this series of lessons, we will learn them.)
3. Furthermore, the books of the Bible can be broken down into the following categories:

OLD TESTAMENT

- a. Books of Law (Pentateuch) _____
- b. Books of History _____
- c. Books of Wisdom _____
- d. Major Prophets _____
- e. Minor Prophets _____
- f. It may help to know these books can be divided into groups as follows: 5-12-5-5-12

NEW TESTAMENT

- g. Record of the life of Christ (Gospel) _____
- h. History of the church _____
- i. Epistles _____
- j. Prophecy _____

III. THE THEME OF THE BIBLE:

- A. From the time of Genesis 3, to the end of the Bible, the theme of the Bible is _____.
- B. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, we see the unfolding of God's plan of salvation.
 1. God's plan for salvation was fulfilled through the family of _____.
 2. Specifically, our Savior came from the tribe of _____.
 3. Because of the _____, _____, and _____ of Christ, men can be saved today. (Romans 6:3-5, 17-18)
- C. Christ is the central figure of the Bible; all the Old Testament worthies pointed to Him, and all the New Testament characters pointed back to Him.
- D. Redemption is the central event of the Bible. If not for this, man would have no chance of going to Heaven when this life is over.

ASSIGNMENTS: (Hint: Assignments increase in difficulty. While some may not be able to answer each question, please challenge yourself and do the best you can!)

1. Do you know the books of the Bible? If not, memorize the first 10 books for next week.
2. If you know the books of the Bible, then be prepared to discuss the divisions of the Bible.
3. Memorize the 15 judges and God's purpose for raising up judges.
4. Paul names the "where," "to whom," "what," and "how" of salvation (the theme of the Bible) in Ephesians 2:13, 16. Read those verses and explain the "where," "to whom," "what," and "how" of salvation.

- Jarrod Jacobs