

God's Plan

KEY VERSES

Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16,
Psalm 119:105

KEY THEMES

God's Word is the authority and the
foundation for our faith

TEACHING NOTES

We believe...

We believe the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, were written by men divinely inspired by God through the Holy Spirit, without error, to be the final authority in faith and life. (Isaiah 40:8; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

WCC's Vision Statement: People, equipped and led by the Holy Spirit, reaching their world for Jesus Christ

The basis for our faith centers on our view of God's Word

Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John

Our faith is reasonable

 **2 Timothy 3:16**

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. – 2 Timothy 3:16

 **Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. – Hebrews 4:12

 **Psalms 119:105**

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

Lesson Objective:

To gain a better understanding of the legitimacy and validity of the Word of God.

PERSONAL STUDY

Each session, we will provide you with a guide for personal study to reinforce what has been taught and help you take steps to grow spiritually. Growing spiritually requires you to spend time alone with God and apply His truth to your life. We encourage you to make room in your weekly schedule for this time with God and His Word.

Prepare your heart and mind

Often we live our lives in a very rushed pace. It is a challenge to slow down and stay focused. Our desire for you is to hit the pause button on life and be fully present with God as you go through this personal study. Here are a few steps to help you prepare your heart and mind.

- Before you begin, find a place that is comfortable and free of distractions.
- Start by spending a few moments just resting. When you feel you are ready, pray and ask God to help you focus on what He wants to communicate to you.

NOTE: Just relax and enjoy this time with your Heavenly Father. The process of quieting your heart and mind takes some time to get used to. This time with God looks different for all of us – the important thing is to find what is effective in allowing you to spend time with Him.



Read 2 Timothy 3:16

(If you need help finding 2 Timothy, look in the front of your Bible for the Table of Contents.)

What are four things this verse tells us about what the Bible can do in our lives?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Where do you currently go for questions you have about life?

It's not healthy for us to compare ourselves with others to gauge right and wrong. God provides us that standard through His Word. What are some areas in your life you tend to compare yourself with others?

As believers, we want to continually orient our lives to God's Word. To that, we have to read the Bible and apply its teaching to our lives.



Read Psalm 119:11

People who are close to us have said things to us that we treasure and that have impacted us deeply – the first time your spouse told you they loved you, a kind word spoken by a loved one at just the time you needed to hear it, or an empowering statement made by a trusted friend.

The Bible contains many truths from God that impact us deeply. As we spend more and more time in His Word, we will begin to treasure these truths just like we have done with the meaningful words spoken by influential people in our lives.

Here are a few practical ways to begin hiding God's Word in your heart:

- Read the Bible regularly
 - A good book to start with would be Mark
- Memorize specific verses of scripture
 - You could start with 2 Timothy 3:16 or Psalm 119:105
- Studying the Bible – alone or with others

Take a moment to think about what you have learned

A lot of information has been covered this week through the teaching and personal study. Take some time now to reflect on what you've learned and how it could apply to your life. Use the space below to make notes about things you don't want to forget.

Prayer time

Spend some time talking with God. You don't have to use big words or even long sentences. Talk to God the same way you would a trusted friend. Be completely honest, God wants you to be real with Him.

THE BIBLE - A SIMPLE OVERVIEW

What's in it?

The Bible is God's written Word to us. God wanted us to have a written account of what He has done, who He is, and what He desires for His creation.

Thirty-five hundred years ago, God began instructing men to write down His words. The Bible was written over a period of sixteen hundred years, by more than forty different writers, on three different continents, and in three different languages—and every book of the Bible has a unified message and points us to God. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed." When it says "God-breathed," it means that the Spirit of God inspired the writers to write what God wanted us to know. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is alive and powerful." While the Bible was written hundreds of years ago, God's Spirit can speak to us today through it. That's what makes it alive and active. Scripture has the power to transform our lives and feed our souls. The Bible has now been translated into hundreds of languages so most people can read God's Word in their spoken language.

How is the Bible organized?

The Bible contains 66 Books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Testament simply means covenant, a word that refers to God's promises to us and His faithfulness to honor those promises. Within each book are different themes and ways of showing us who God is and teaching us His ways. Have you ever had someone teach you a point using many different illustrations? That's what the Bible does. There are so many different stories and ways God shows us who He is and who we are. We can learn from the experiences of people in the Bible take comfort in knowing how God responded to them.

To help a person find their way around the Bible, there is a table of contents in the front and, in some Bibles, a concordance in the back. A concordance is a list of key words and some of the places they are used throughout the Bible. This can be very useful when you are searching for a verse but can only remember part of it.

The order of the books in the Old Testament are based on how the Jews arranged them according to the official status of the writers - Moses, the prophets, and the other writers. The New Testament order follows a similar pattern. First, the historical books about Jesus and the early church. Then, the books referred to as the epistles (or letters) - Paul's letters come first, and then those written by other writers.

How does WCC view the Bible?

We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, was written by men divinely inspired by God through the Holy Spirit, is without error, and is the final authority in faith and life. (Isaiah 40:8; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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