

Student Handouts and Worksheets
to accompany the video series

Discovering
the
Bible

NOTE: Permission is hereby granted to duplicate or copy these pages for use in connection with study or discussion groups using the *Discovering the Bible* video curriculum.

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HANDOUT 1:

CHECK YOUR CULTURAL LITERACY

The Bible has become such a part of our culture that phrases or references from the Bible or its stories can frequently be found in ordinary speech or writing. In the following sentences, match the underlined phrase with its appropriate Biblical substitute.

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|---|---|
| <p>___ 1. Anyone entering the United Nations assembly is <u>immediately struck by sounds from languages around the globe.</u></p> <p>___ 2. Tom's protest of the corporation's actions was like waging war with <u>a giant.</u></p> <p>___ 3. That woman seems to <u>manipulate men to her own purposes.</u></p> <p>___ 4. The strength of the farmer matched that of <u>the strongest man in the world.</u></p> <p>___ 5. Though the king was young in years, his wisdom seemed equal to <u>the wisest of kings.</u></p> <p>___ 6. The father had suffered through famine, disease, and the deaths of those most dear, yet his patience matched the patience of <u>the most long-suffering saint.</u></p> <p>___ 7. In order to properly come to the solution of any problem, it's usually best to analyze its <u>origin.</u></p> <p>___ 8. When the new company reports listed increased losses, Matt thought he saw the <u>warning of a coming judgment,</u> and he was certain he'd lose his job.</p> <p>___ 9. Melissa <u>refuses to accept anything until it is absolutely proven to her.</u></p> <p>___ 10. The rules of Thaddeus' mom were <u>absolute;</u> there was no changing them.</p> <p>___ 11. The soldiers' defection to the other side was <u>an act of betrayal to his beleaguered countrymen.</u></p> | <p>A. is a doubting Thomas (John 20:24-29)</p> <p>B. written in stone (Exodus 31:18)</p> <p>C. Job (see book of that name)</p> <p>D. handwriting on the wall (Daniel 5)</p> <p>E. like the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)</p> <p>F. be a Delilah (Judges 16)</p> <p>G. Genesis (first book in the Bible; Greek for "origin")</p> <p>H. Goliath (I Samuel 17)</p> <p>I. Solomon (I Kings 3-4)</p> <p>J. Samson (Judges 16)</p> <p>K. a Judas kiss (Matthew 26:49)</p> |
|---|---|

BIBLICAL SOURCES OF FAMILIAR SAYINGS INCLUDING THOSE SITED IN VIDEO PROGRAM #1:

- "apple of my eye" - Zechariah 2:8
- "a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" - Proverbs 18:24
- "Don't let the right hand know what the left hand is doing" - Matthew 6:3
- "the guilty flee when no man pursueth" - Proverbs 28:1
- "Thou art the man" - II Samuel 12:7
- "Prodigal Son" - Luke 15:11-32
- "turn the other cheek" - Matthew 5:39
- "love your enemies" - Matthew 5:41
- "Good Samaritan" - Luke 10:30-37
- "Am I my brother's keeper" - Genesis 4:9
- "go the extra mile" - Matthew 5:41
- "separate the sheep from the goats" - Matthew 25:32
- "the blind leading the blind" - Matthew 15:14
- "our daily bread" - Matthew 6:11
- "For everything a time and season" - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Answers to matching questions:

1-E, 2-H, 3-F, 4-J, 5-I, 6-C, 7-G, 8-D, 9-A, 10-B, 11-K

HANDOUT 2:

WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible's influence can be seen in part by the opinions great people of the past have held about the Book. Some of them are found in the quotes below. After reading these, discuss or list what specific importance these people attributed to the Bible.

It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a bible-reading people.

Horace Greeley

I walk many times in the pleasant fields of the Holy Scriptures,...and lay them up at length in the seat of memory, by gathering them together, that so having tasted their sweetness I may the less perceive the bitterness of this miserable life.

Queen Elizabeth

Without the Bible the education of a child in the present state of society is impossible.

Leo Tolstoy

So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of society. I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once every year.

John Quincy Adams

I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.

Abraham Lincoln

A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.

Theodore Roosevelt

The Bible is a book in comparison which all others are of minor importance. In all my perplexities and distress the Bible never failed to give me light and strength.

Robert E. Lee

Within that awful volume (the Bible) lies the mystery of mysteries!...And better that they ne'er been born, who read to doubt or read to scorn.

Sir Walter Scott

There is no solid basis for civilization but in the Word of God.... If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.... If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be; if God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy; if the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will; if the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness, will reign without mitigation or end.

Daniel Webster

A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of this, a knowledge of the Bible. When you have read the Bible, you will know that it is the Word of God, because you will have found it the key to your own happiness, and your own duty.

Woodrow Wilson

To the Bible men will return because they cannot do without it. The true God is and must be pre-eminently the God of the Bible, the eternal who makes for righteousness, from whom Jesus came forth, and whose spirit governs the course of humanity.

Matthew Arnold

The Bible is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced.

Emmanuel Kant

The Bible grows more beautiful as we grow in our understanding of it.

Goethe

The Lord does not shine upon us, except when we take his Word as our light....Unless God's Word illumines the way, the whole life of men is wrapped in darkness and mist, so that they cannot but miserably stray.

John Calvin

A man's word is a little sound, that flies into the air, and soon vanishes; but the Word of God is greater than heaven and earth, yea, greater than death and hell, for it forms part of the power of God, and endures everlastingly....The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me.

Martin Luther

Many books in my library are now behind and beneath me. They were good in their way once, and so were the clothes I wore when I was ten years old; but I have outgrown them. Nobody ever outgrows the Scriptures; the book widens and deepens with our years.

Charles Spurgeon

If we would destroy the Christian religion, we must first of all destroy man's belief in the Bible.

Voltaire

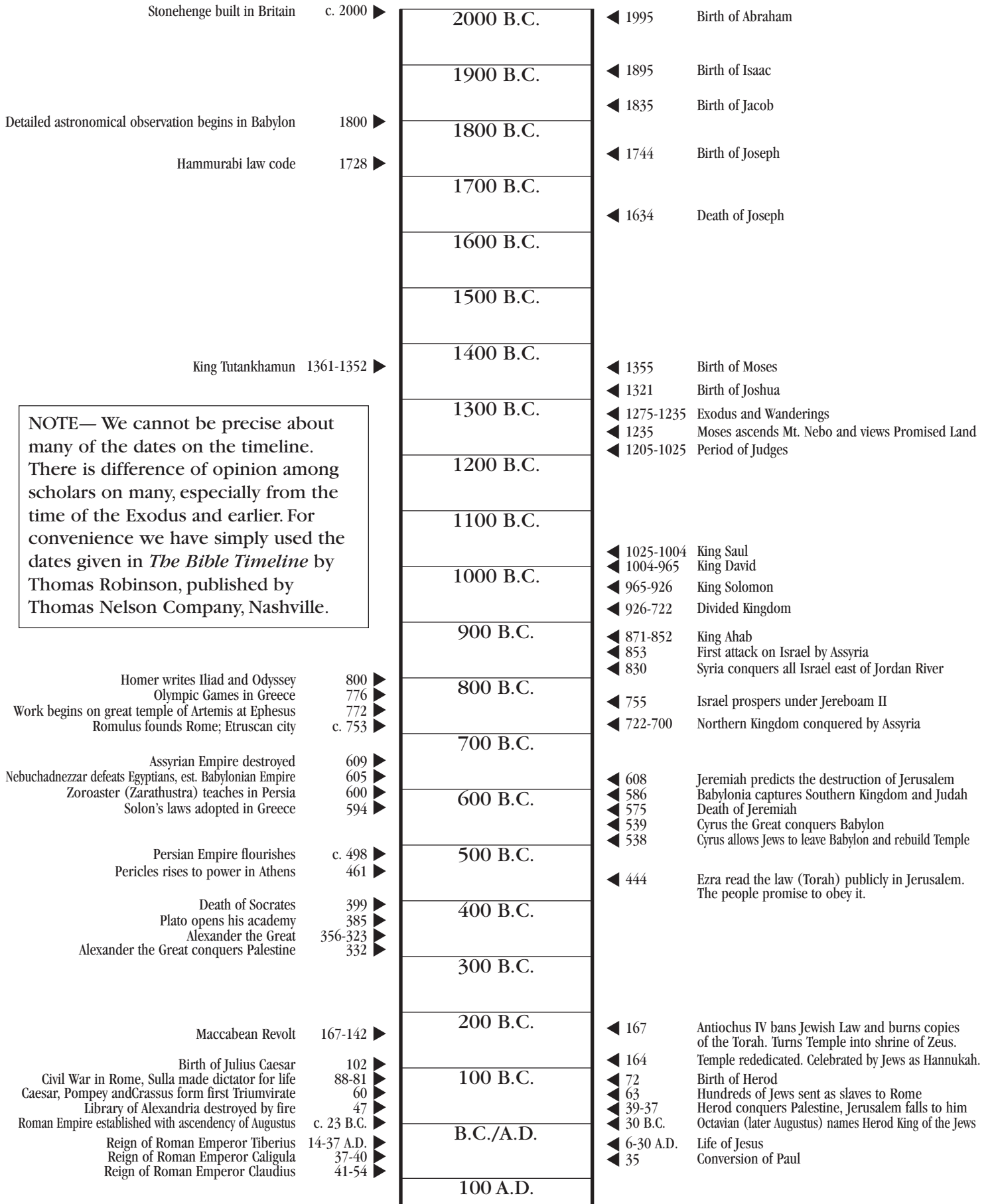
The inspiration of the Bible depends upon the ignorance of the gentleman who reads it.

Robert Ingersoll

One does well to put on gloves when reading the New Testament; the proximity of so much impurity almost compels to this...I have searched in it vainly for even a single congenial trait...everything in it is cowardice and self-deception. Whenever we read the obscene stories, (the voluptuous debaucheries, the cruel and torturous executions,) the unrelenting vindictiveness with which more than half the Bible is filled, it would be more consistent that we call it the work of a demon than the word of God. It is a history of wickedness that has served to corrupt and brutalize mankind.

Thomas Paine

HANDOUT 3: TIMELINE



NOTE— We cannot be precise about many of the dates on the timeline. There is difference of opinion among scholars on many, especially from the time of the Exodus and earlier. For convenience we have simply used the dates given in *The Bible Timeline* by Thomas Robinson, published by Thomas Nelson Company, Nashville.

HANDOUT 4:

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ITSELF?

One of the ways to get to know someone is to interview them and talk with them - ask them questions which cause them to reveal "what makes them tick." The same is true of getting to know the Bible. Let's interview the Bible and see what it has to say about itself:

1. Often the Bible is called the Word of God - why? (Exodus 32:16; II Peter 1:21; I Peter 1:10-12; II Timothy 3:16-17)
2. What adjectives can be used to describe the Bible? (Psalm 19:7-11; Hebrews 4:12)
3. How can the Bible affect people's lives? (Psalm 119:11; II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 1:22-2:3)
4. If the Bible is God's Word and is so important, why can't everyone understand it? (I Corinthians 1:18-20, 25; 2:13-15; 3:19)
5. The Bible was written at least 2000 years ago or more - can it really be of any importance today? (Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; 24:35; John 17:17)

HANDOUT 5:

THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

For how many of these Old Testament books can you give a short summary sentence describing the contents? (You may wish to later check your Bible and fill in key observation on each.)

LAW

Genesis	
Exodus	
Leviticus	
Numbers	
Deuteronomy	

HISTORY

Joshua	
Judges	
Ruth	
1 and 2 Samuel	
1 and 2 Kings	
1 and 2 Chronicles	
Ezra	
Nehemiah	
Esther	

WISDOM

Job	
Psalms	
Proverbs	
Ecclesiastes	
Song of Solomon	

PROPHETS

Isaiah	
Jeremiah	
Lamentations	
Ezekiel	
Daniel	

MINOR (OR SHORTER) PROPHETS

Hosea	
Joel	
Amos	
Obadiah	
Jonah	
Micah	
Nahum	
Habakkuk	
Zephaniah	
Haggai	
Zechariah	
Malachi	

HANDOUT 6:

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

Archaeology can neither prove nor disprove the Bible. Archaeology cannot prove, for example, that God spoke to Moses. But archaeology can help us understand the culture and background of the Bible, illuminating the historical roots of the Biblical faith. Some key archaeological finds which relate to the Old Testament are described below.

UR

Excavations of Ur of the Chaldees, Abraham's birthplace (Genesis 11:26-28) reveal a prosperous, populous city in Babylon (modern Iran). At the center of the major trade routes, Ur was an important commercial center with written codes of laws and a rich culture. Objects found in the royal tombs are beautifully fashioned of gold and precious stones. At the center of the city was a massive, towering temple to the moon-god.

BAGHAZ KOY

At the turn of the century, mounds near this Turkish city were excavated, and the Hittite capital of Hattusha began to be unearthed. A large city with an organized civil service and huge library were uncovered. Apart from references to them in the Bible, the existence of the Hittites was unknown until the archaeological work begun by A.H. Sayce at the end of the nineteenth century. A thriving empire in the second century B.C., Hittite civil organization and laws reveal the complex and advanced state of civilization at the time the Hebrew nation was beginning.

TUTANKHAMEN'S TOMB

The tomb of the young Pharaoh Tutankhamen, first entered by Howard Carter in November, 1922, reveals something of the glory and riches of the Egyptian rulers. It was from such wealth that the Jews obtained gold and jewels which would be used to construct the tabernacle to the Lord in the wilderness (Exodus 12:35).

MEGIDDO

When Solomon established his kingdom, he fortified strategically located cities, among them Megiddo (I Kings 9:15). The site has been located and excavated thoroughly. Walls, gates, and extensive buildings within the city have been dated to Solomon's time. The style of building as well as the city plan match those found at Solomon's other fortified cities of Hazor and Gezer.

SAMARIA

Samaria, capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel, was captured by the Assyrians in 721 B.C. Archaeologists have found important artistic connections between Samaria and the Assyrian capital of Nineveh. Samaria's elite enjoyed the luxury of ivory furniture (I Kings 22:10; Amos 3:15; 6:4). Assyrian records indicate King Hezekiah of Judah gave some ivory furniture to the Assyrian king. Archaeologists in both Nineveh and Samaria have found large fragments of such intricately carved ivory.

HANDOUT 7:

A FAITH ROOTED IN HISTORY

The rabbis view the Torah as a love letter of God to His people Israel. The God of the Scriptures is intimately involved in the affairs of His people, and part of the people's praise and worship of their God is reciting the history of God's work. Let's look at history in the Hebrew Scriptures:

1. Songs of praise are found throughout the Old Testament. Read the following and notice for what historical acts the people are praising God: Exodus 15; Judges 5; Psalms 18, 33, 78

2. What role did history have in the education of Jewish young people? Deuteronomy 6

3. How was Israel's historical position in the land related to its faith in the Lord God? Deuteronomy 28 (What are some specific ways God is said to work in history in this passage?)

4. From the following Scriptures, what was God's relationship to nations other than Israel? Proverbs 21:1; Isaiah 45:1; Daniel 4:34-35; Psalm 2

In what ways was this God of the Hebrew Scriptures more than just a Jewish God?

HANDOUT 8:

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

GOSPELS - Describe Jesus' teaching, ministry, death & resurrection.

Synoptic Gospels - share much material in common, each with a different emphasis

Matthew - Proclaims Jesus as Jewish King

Mark - Jesus as Servant and Son of God

Luke - God bringing salvation to sinners

John - Jesus as the eternal Word revealing the Father

HISTORY

Acts - History of development of the early church

LETTERS BY PAUL

Romans - Comprehensive statement of the Gospel

I Corinthians - Problems in the church: division, immorality, errors in doctrine and worship

II Corinthians - Gives comfort & encouragement in trouble; God is strong in our weakness

Galatians - Salvation is a free gift of God's grace received by faith alone

Ephesians - Mystery and nature of the Church

Philippians - Joy and confidence in Christian life, regardless of circumstances

Colossians - Acceptance before God through Christ alone, not any human religion or philosophy

I Thessalonians - Christ is coming again in judgment on the unjust

II Thessalonians - Christians should work and lead godly lives until Christ comes

I Timothy - Advice on organization and doctrines of the church

II Timothy - Importance of sound doctrine in the church

Titus - Advice on organization and doctrine in the church

Philemon - Letter of advocacy for a runaway slave

GENERAL LETTERS

Hebrews - Jesus fulfilled the Mosaic law, priesthood, and sacrifices

James - Relationship of faith and works in Christian life

I Peter - Encourages Christians under persecution

II Peter - Truth of Christianity against false teachers

I John - God is light, truth, and love; Christians should develop these virtues

II John - Encouragement and warning to small group of Christians

III John - Letter of commendation of one Christian to another

Jude - Denounces false teachers

PROPHECY

Revelation - God rules history and will bring it to a triumphal climax in Christ Jesus

HANDOUT 9:

NEW TESTAMENT QUOTES ABOUT JESUS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

In the early centuries of the Church, Christians emphasized that Christianity was a continuation and fulfillment of the Jewish faith found in the Old Testament. Christianity was not a new religion, but had roots deep in the antiquity of the Jewish promises of a Messiah. Jesus himself repeatedly used Old Testament quotes to explain His ministry. After His resurrection, walking with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, he explained to them about His death and resurrection, beginning with Moses and then going through the prophets (Luke 24:27). Below are several Scriptures He might have referred to. Read the Old Testament passage, and the New Testament reference, then explain to what historical fact both passages refer:

<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Historical Fact</u>
Genesis 22:18	Matthew 1:1	
Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:23, 31	
Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1	
Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23	
Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1, 2	
Isaiah 35:5, 6	Matthew 9:35	
Psalms 41:9	Matthew 26:49, 50	
Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15	
Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12-19	
Isaiah 53:5	Matthew 27:26	

Old Testament

New Testament

Historical Fact

Isaiah 50:6

Matthew 26:67

Psalms 22:7,8

Matthew 27:31

Psalms 22:16

Luke 23:33

Isaiah 53:12

Luke 23:34

Psalms 38:11

Luke 23:49

Psalms 22:17

Luke 23:15

Psalms 22:18

John 19:23,24

Psalms 22:1

Matthew 27:46

Psalms 31:5

Luke 23:46

Psalms 34:20

John 19:33

Amos 8:9

Matthew 27:45

Isaiah 53:9

Matthew 27:57-60

Psalms 16:10

Acts 2:31

Psalms 110:1

Hebrews 1:3

HANDOUT 10:

THE BIBLE CHANGES LIVES

Person	Scripture Which Affected Them	Key Idea
AUGUSTINE (354-430)	Romans 13:13-14	
FRANCIS (1181-1226)	Matthew 10:7-19	
MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)	Romans 1:17	
JOHN WESLEY (1703-1791)	Romans 7:24-25 (& Luther's Preface to Romans)	
MOTHER THERESA (1910-)	Matthew 25:34-45	

HANDOUT 11:

THE BIBLE ANSWERS ETERNAL QUESTIONS

In our first video we mentioned that the Bible deals with eternal answers to issues and questions which transcend cultural and geographical differences. In this Bible study, we'll look at some of these questions we asked to discover the Bible's answer.

1. What are we to think of ourselves? (Genesis 1:27-28; Psalm 8:3-9; 139:14; Isaiah 59:2; Romans 3:23)

2. How are people to treat each other? (Romans 13:8; Matthew 7:12)

3. How are we to handle our guilt and fears? (Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 40:31; 41:10)

4. How does God reach down to people? (John 3:16, 36; 10:3-4; Hebrews 7:25; Luke 19:10; Ephesians 1:17)

5. How can we find God? (Jeremiah 29:13; John 6:44-45; Deuteronomy 4:29; John 8:31; Matthew 7:7-8; Acts 4:12; I Timothy 2:5-6)

6. How are nations to relate to each other? (Proverbs 11:11; 14:31; Psalm 2:10-12)

7. How is humankind to relate to nature? (Genesis 1:28-31; 3:17-19; Romans 8:20-25)

8. What is the meaning of life and the reason for the universe? (I Corinthians 10:31; Luke 12:22-33; James 4:14; I John 5:12; Hebrews 1:10; Psalm 19:1; 50:6; Romans 1:20)

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