

## YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

### LESSON 1: THE BIBLE

#### What Is the Most Important Book?

There have been lots of important books written. Maybe you can even name some of them. But the Bible is the most important book. Why do you think it is the most important? How do you know that other people consider the Bible a very important book?

#### What Can You Learn In the Bible?

When you want to learn about math, you read a math book. When you want to learn about geography, you read a geography book. When you want to learn about *God*, you read God's book, the Bible.

The Bible tells us things that \_\_\_\_\_ !

To see how important the Bible is, let's look at what things we can learn *without* the Bible and what things we can learn *with* the Bible. Which things do you think are the most important?

Without the Bible	With the Bible
Ps 19:1 (2)	2 Ti 3:15 (9)
Ro 1:20 (4)	Jn 3:16
Ro 2:15 (5)	Jn 20:31 (10)
Ac 14:17 (6)	Jn 17:3 (1)

The most important thing we will ever learn about is:

\_\_\_\_\_

The book from which we learn this is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes the Bible is called *Scripture* or *the Scriptures*

Others realize that the Bible is the most important book too. The Bible has been translated into more than 2,000 languages and dialects. It is the best-selling book in the history of the world.

## How Is the Bible Different From Other Religious Books?

There are lots of "religious" book out there. The Mormons have a book called *The Book of Mormon*. Muslims have a book called the *Koran*. How is the Bible different from the religious books of all other religions?

Non-Christian Books	The Bible

## The Two Main Parts of the Bible and The Bible, a Book of Books

	Old Testament	New Testament
Date Of Writing		
Contents Of Writing		
History Covered		
Number and Type Of Books		
Original Language		

**Activity:** See p. 31 of *Luther's Catechism* for a complete list of the books of the Bible.

## Who Is the Author Of the Bible?

2 Pe 1:21 (13) \_\_\_\_\_

1 Co 2:13 (15) \_\_\_\_\_

2 Ti 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

## Who Wrote the Bible Down?

God chose certain men to write the Bible down for Him. In a miraculous way, He put into the minds of these men exactly what words He wanted them to write. We might think of God as having "secretaries" who wrote down just what they were told.

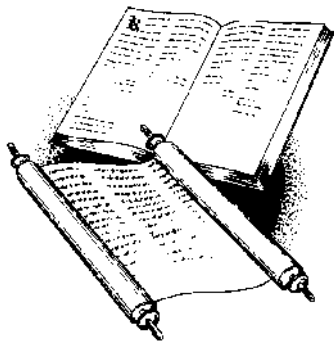
**Verbal Inspiration** means that the Holy Spirit (God) gave the writers the very words which He wanted in His book.

### Old Testament

- Moses
- The Prophets (list three) \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

### New Testament

- Evangelists \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_
- Apostles (list two) \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_



## How the Bible Got To Us

In Old Testament times, the Bible was written onto long scrolls. In the New Testament, the Bible was written onto papyrus or parchment. There were no copy machines when the Bible was first written, so people copied it by hand. Today, there are still many manuscripts (hand copies of the Bible) in existence.

א בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים  
 ואת הארץ: <sup>2</sup> והארץ היתה תהו ובהו  
 וחשך על פני תהום ורוח אלהים מרחפת  
 על פני המים: <sup>3</sup> ויאמר אלהים יהי אור  
 ויהי אור: <sup>4</sup> וירא אלהים את האור כי  
 טוב ויבדל אלהים בין האור ובין  
 החשך: <sup>5</sup> ויקרא אלהים לאור יום

The *Old Testament* was written down in the Hebrew language.  
 Here is a sample from Genesis 1:1-5.

28 οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμεῖς οἱ ἰησοῦς· ὅτι ἡδὴ πάντα τὰ  
 ἐλάττω, εἶνα τελειωθῇ ἡ γῆ. λέγει δὲ 29 σκεῖ  
 τ' ἑαυτοὺς ἄλλους μιστοὺς (σπένγον οὖν μιστοὺς τοῦ  
 ἔσχατου παροφέντες) προσήνεγκαν αὐτοῦ τῷ σῶ  
 ματι. 30 ὅτε οὖν ἔλαβεν τὸ ἄλφ, [οἱ ἰησοῦς] εἶπεν· τε  
 λείωται, καὶ κλίνας τὴν κεφαλὴν παραδωκάν το πνεῦμα  
 31 Οἱ οὖν Ἰουδαῖοι, ἡμεῖς παρασκατῇ ἦν, ἵνα μὴ μείνῃ  
 τι τοῦ σταυροῦ τὰ σωματὰ ἐν τῷ συμβάτῳ, ἥν γὰρ με  
 τὰ ἡμεῖς ἐκεῖνος τοῦ συμβάτου, ἡρώτησαν τὸ

The *New Testament* was written down in the Greek language.  
 Here is a sample from John 19:28-31.

**Activity:** Show why God made a good choice when He chose Hebrew for the language of the Old Testament.

**Activity:** Show why God made a good choice when He chose Greek for the language of the New Testament.

## Translations Of the Bible

Since we do not read the original languages of the Bible, the Scripture must be *translated* into English for us to understand. There are hundreds of translations of the Bible into English. A few of them are:

- The King James Version (KJV)
- The New International Version (NIV)
- The New King James Version (NKJV)
- The New American Standard Bible (NASB)
- An American Translation (AAT)

When you choose a Bible translation to use, you should choose one that is easy for you to read and understand. The Bible called *An American Translation* (AAT) is a very good Bible for young readers or people who have not read much in the Bible before. Unfortunately, copies of this Bible are a little hard to find. If you would like one, ask your pastor how to get one.

Once we have a copy of the Bible in our own language, then we can begin to learn all the exciting things God wants to tell us! Just think of it – *your Bible is God's way of talking to you!*

**Activity:** Here are samples of four different translations of the Bible (four of the five that are listed on page three). Read them and see which Bible translation might be the easiest for you to study and understand. Remember that they all say and mean the same thing – God's word does not change – but some English versions are easier for us to understand than others.

	King James Version (KJV)	New International Version (NIV)	New King James Version (NKJV)	An American Translation (AAT)
<b>Luke 10: 38-42</b>	Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.	As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."	Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."	As they were walking along, Jesus came to a village where a woman by the name of Martha welcomed Him to her home. She had a sister by the name of Mary. She sat down at Jesus' feet and listened to what He said. But Martha was worried about all she had to do for them. So she came and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me and I have to do the work alone? Now tell her to help me." "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered her, "you worry and fuss about a lot of things. But there's only one thing you need. Mary has made the right choice, and it must not be taken away from her."

The catechism you are currently using prints Bible passages using the New King James Version (NKJV). For your personal Bible reading, you may choose to use one of the other translations.

## Since the Bible Is God's Word

Since the author of the Bible is God, we treat His book differently than other books.

We know the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_

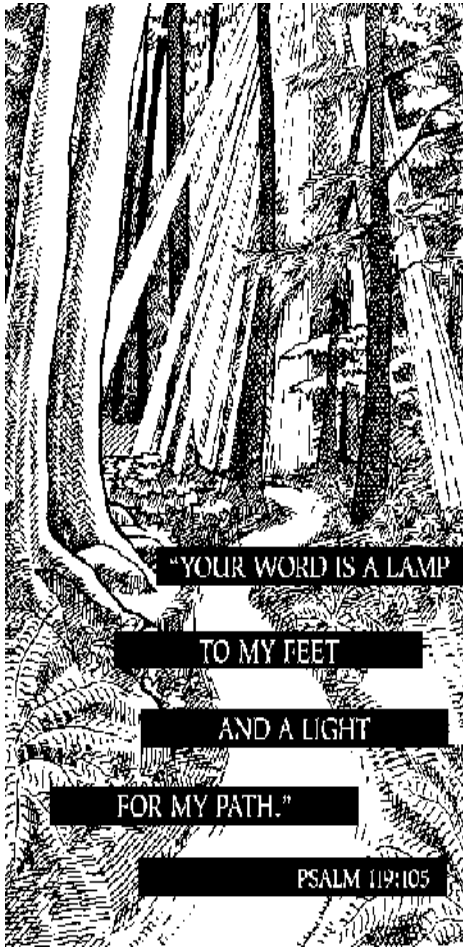
Jn 17:17 (19)

We know the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_

Ps 119:105 (21)

We know that we can \_\_\_\_\_

Nu 23:19



## How Are We To Use the Bible?

- Read it and Learn From It
- Don't Change It
- Treasure It
- Respect What It Says

## We Know the Bible Is God's Book

- Because it can prove itself in our hearts – Lk 24:32 (31)
- Jesus says it is God's Book – Lk 11:28 (33)
- Prophecies have been fulfilled – Mt 26:56 (36)

## The Catechism

We've been talking a lot about the Bible. Why do we need the catechism? *Luther's Catechism* helps us to understand the Bible by giving us simple explanations of the basic teachings of the Bible. It also lists many Bible passages to help us learn what the Bible teaches. The catechism will help you as you read your Bible.



### Memory Passage

Ps 119:105 (21) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

## Assignment

- Recite the memory passage for this lesson
- Practice pronouncing the names of the books of the Bible on p. 31 of *Luther's Catechism*