

LIVING STONES DISCIPLESHIP GROUP



FIRST SEMESTER UNIT 2

"[Y]ou yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1Peter 2:5



UNIT 2:

What is the Bible?



IN THIS SESSION

- :: How does God reveal Himself?
- :: How do we know the Bible is God's Word?
 - :: Does the Bible contain errors?
 - :: Is the Bible enough?
- :: What is the main point of the Bible?

UNIT 2: What is the Bible?

// OPENING SCRIPTURE

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,"

(2Timothy 3:16)

// OPENING PRAYER

// FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS UNIT

Memory Verse :: N/A

Homework :: Turn in "Living Stones Discipleship Group Covenant"

UNIT 2: What is the Bible?

// WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

:: The Bible is God's Word in written form. It is a library of 66 books, written by around 40 different authors over a period of about 1500 years. The Bible is divided into two parts: *Old Testament* and *New Testament*. The Old Testament contains 39 books written before Jesus Christ. And the New Testament contains 27 books written after Jesus Christ.

// HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD?

:: Read Genesis 2:24. The Scripture credits Moses with writing the first five books of the Bible. Now read Matthew 19:4-5. Who did Jesus say wrote this verse? What does this tell us about the way Jesus viewed Scripture?

:: Why would it matter what Jesus believed about the Old Testament?

:: Fill out 2Peter 1:21, "**For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of _____, but men spoke from God as they were _____ by the Holy Spirit.**" What does this verse tell us about the nature of Scripture?

*"The written word is the covenant constitution of the people of God,
and its authority is absolute, because the authority of its Author is absolute."*

John Frame

// DOES THE BIBLE CONTAIN ERRORS?

:: The Bible is God's word. Due to His nature, God cannot lie. (See Titus 1:2 & Hebrews 6:18)

Therefore, what can we reasonably conclude about the nature of the Bible?

:: Complete the following verses (from the ESV Bible):

- Proverbs 30:5, "Every word of God proves _____; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."
- Psalm 119:89, "Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly _____ in the heavens."
- Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not _____."

:: John 17:17, "**Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.**" Notice Jesus did not say, "Your word is true." He said God's Word is truth.

:: Based on this, will any scientific or historical fact ever be discovered that will contradict the Bible?

:: Since the Bible is God's Word and God's word is truth, who are we disobeying when we disobey the Scripture?

DOCTRINE MATTERS:

BIBLICAL INERRANCY: We believe the Bible, in its original manuscripts, is without error or fault in any of its teaching. It does not affirm anything contrary to fact.

// IS THE BIBLE ENOUGH?

:: There are 66 books in the Bible. Should there be more? Should there be less? God has included everything we need to know about Him, about ourselves, and about the world in the Scriptures. The Westminster Confession of Faith of 1646 states, "*The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.*"

:: Is there anything we need to know about God that is *not* included in Scripture? Are there new revelations about God outside of Scripture?

:: How do Christians decide what is right or wrong regarding matters which are not explicitly addressed in Scripture? *Examples: television, internet, church denominations, multi-site churches, etc.*

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.."

Hebrews 4:12, ESV

:: Hebrews 4:12 says God's word is "living and active". It is alive! This means God speak to us through His word today. The Bible is a rich treasure of absolute, infallible truths. It is altogether reliable and trustworthy. Occasionally, God communicates to His people in extraordinary ways outside the Bible. And if He does, we should test these words or impressions against the written word (1Th 5:20-21). Thus, we should consider it folly to crave lesser, subjective words above the treasures of God's written, infallible word.

:: How are God's people to "test everything" with regard to lesser revelations/words from God?

// WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT OF THE BIBLE?

:: The Bible is many books which is one book. It is a God-inspired collection of stories which tell one story. Alec Motyer writes, the Bible is a "book with all the answers at the back." He means the New Testament provides the fulfillment for all the unravelled loose ends of the Old.

:: What does John say is the point of his gospel in John 20:30-31?

:: Elsewhere in John's gospel, Jesus said Moses "wrote of Me". What does this tell us about interpreting the events and stories in the Bible?

:: Read Luke 24:13-27. What do you think verse 27 looked like?

UNIT 2: What is the Bible?

PRAYER REQUESTS // PRAISE REPORTS

Go around the room and have each person share a prayer request and/or a praise report. Members should commit to praying for these requests.

ENCOURAGEMENT & HONOR

Romans 12:10 says, “**Outdo one another in showing honor.**” Go around the room and offer 1 or 2 points of encouragement to one another.

“Encourage one another and build one another up...”
1Thessalonians 5:11, ESV

UNIT 2: What is the Bible?

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

:: Memorize the following verse(s):

**"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,"**

(2Timothy 3:16, ESV)

:: Complete the Unit 3 worksheets and activities (when applicable).

:: Pray for the needs of your brothers/sisters in your group.

:: Ensure you are able to attend the next session.