

DISCIPLESHIP HANDBOOK

XO
RESOURCES



02

Lesson 2 | The Bible

What is the Bible?

The Bible is a book of books. It's historical text that tell one story of God and His people, how God created man for fellowship, how man fell away from their purpose, and how God made a way back to them.

It is not just a history book but as a way to lead us to Jesus.

John 20:31 - But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Bible is the holy inspired Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

It has 40+ authors over a 1,600-year span (from 1,400 BC to 100 AD), but all of it was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

It was written in three languages: Aramaic, Hebrew and Greek.

It has 66 books but there are different types of books: law, historical, wisdom, prophecy, poetry, gospels, letters, etc.

(Definition of prophecy: a revelation from God of things to come).

The Bible may also be referred to as: the Gospel, the Word of God, Scriptures, Law of the Lord...

Two Parts of the Bible

The Old Testament

Starts us at the story of creation, takes us through the story of God's people (the Israelites) and their continual turning away from God and His calling us back to himself using judges, prophets and kings.

The New Testament

Begins at the story of the birth of Jesus, His ministry, death and resurrection. Then it covers the history of the first church and letters written to the different churches to offer direction and correction. The final book is Revelations which is a book of prophecy.

Book, Chapter and Verse

Example - John 3:16

Book - John

Chapter - 3

Verse - 16

If you are using a paper Bible, you can find the book of the Bible eg John, in the Index

So Why Should I Read It?

Even though there were many authors, there was only one inspiration - 2 Timothy 3:16 (see pg 13).

The Bible is for everyone. It instructs us on who God is and gives us guidance for daily living.

Matthew 7:24 - Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Psalms 119:11 - I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

It can also help us in times when we are feeling confused.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

The Bible helps us to distinguish between what is from God and what is from man.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Where do I Start?

There are no hard and fast rules, but the first four books of the **New Testament** tell us about Jesus and His life: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. One of those would be a great place to start. John would be a good choice.

First Steps

First you need to get a Bible! Either a paper one or an app.

Confused about translations? There are several translations to choose from. These are some of the more common and easy to understand translations

- NIV – New International Version
- NLT – New Living Translation
- NASB – New American Standard Version
- NKJV – New King James Version

Tips to reading the bible:

Prayer – before you start reading the Bible, ask God for His help to understand it. (*Definition of prayer: talking and listening to God*)

Try reading one chapter at a time and asking yourself these three questions:

- **What does this Scripture tell me about God?** Remember from Lesson 1 God has three parts, so you might learn something about the Father, Son or Holy Spirit (or all 3)
- **What is going on in this passage?**

- **What can I learn about myself and apply to my life?**

Any questions you have, ask your Bible study leader, your mentor, or ask a pastor or leader of the church for help. Join a Bible study group.

Remember, this is a lifelong journey - don't give up if it's hard to get started. Reading the Bible is similar to having a long-term savings plan. You make deposits regularly, but you don't always see the benefits immediately. Reading the Bible helps build a gradual foundation in your faith for the long haul.

Dig a Little Deeper

Bible apps - You Version Bible app

Biblica Audio Bible - <https://www.biblica.com/bible/>

YouTube - The Bible Project

Whatever book of the bible you are reading, if you go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/jointhebibleproject/videos>, you can find a short video about it.

This will help give you a basic overview of the history of that passage and cultural context, which can help you further understand the book as you read it.

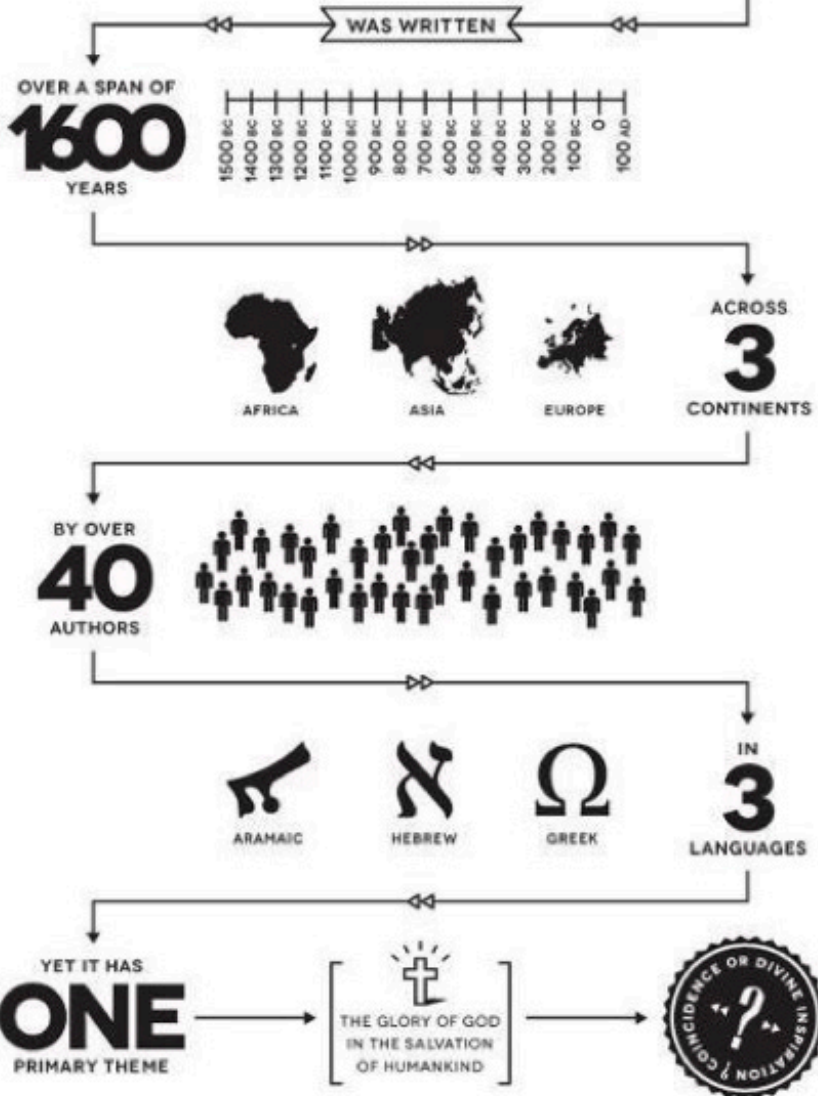
Commentaries - Commentaries can be great as well.

Go to <https://www.blueletterbible.org>

Type in your verse or chapter in the search engine.

This will give you several tools to help

The Bible



Questions & Notes

Lesson 2

- 1. What are three things you have learned about the Bible that you didn't know before?**
- 2. What are three reasons I need to start reading the Bible?**
- 3. After I get a Bible, what would be a good first step?**

