

LifeSavers Lesson 1: *Truths That Reveal Christ*

Welcome to *LifeSavers* Bible study guides.

Instructions: This is the first of 16 self-directed bible guides. For the very best results we recommend that you follow the lessons in sequence. Enjoy!

As we begin our journey, we need to know whether the 66 books of the Bible, written by some forty authors over a period of 1,600 years (1500 BC to 100 AD), provide an accurate picture of God. Is the Bible a relevant guide for people living in the 21st century?

This lesson responds to this question with a series of true and false choices. View the selected Scripture passages and check your reply.

Check one answer for each question:

1. The men who wrote the Bible simply drew from their own wisdom and knowledge.

2 Peter 1:21: TRUE FALSE

2. The Bible is a God-inspired source-book for spiritual learning and instruction.

2 Timothy 3:16: TRUE FALSE

3. The Scriptures testify of Jesus.

John 5:39: TRUE FALSE

4. When Jesus was explaining the prophecies to some of the disciples, He referred to Old Testament sources.

Luke 24:25-27: TRUE FALSE

The Scriptures of Jesus' day consisted of the books of Moses, the Psalms (books of poetry) and the prophets. Today we call these books the Old Testament. Jesus said they were a testimony (witness) of Himself (John 5:39). Therefore, both Old and New Testaments tell us something about who God is, as well as His plan for each of us. Since God's purpose never changes (Malachi 3:6, James 1:17), we can be confident that the Bible is relevant for us even in our day.

5. God's primary method of communication is via miracles, palm readers and good witches.

Amos 3:7: TRUE FALSE

Actually, the prophets wrote the messages they received from God in books and letters that were divinely preserved over the centuries by the Holy Spirit. This appears to be God's favorite way to reveal Himself to humans.

6. God preserved the experiences of Bible characters so we can learn from their experiences.

1 Corinthians 10:11: TRUE FALSE

Not only can we learn from their experience, but when we see how God was so merciful to them, even with their character flaws, it will give us hope in our present circumstances. (See Romans 15:4).

7. The many stories of Jesus' life are recorded to help us believe in Jesus and through Him find eternal life.

John 20:30-31: TRUE FALSE

In all of Scripture we can learn about God, but in the life of Jesus we have the ultimate revelation of God because Jesus is God in the flesh (John 1:1,14). So when reading about Jesus we are learning what God is like (John 14:6-11).

8. Bible study for intellectual knowledge is enough to save a person.

John 5:38-40: TRUE FALSE

9. Bible study provides us with knowledge about salvation and Christian living.

2 Timothy 3:15-17: TRUE FALSE

10. The human mind, in its natural condition, can properly understand the Bible.

1 Corinthians 2:11-14: TRUE FALSE

See also Romans 8:5-8 and Galatians 5:16-18. Since sin has separated us from God, we are incapable of comprehending the things of God without His help.

11. The Spirit of Truth will show us everything we need to know if we let Him.

John 16:13-15: TRUE FALSE

12. While it's true that God's Spirit leads us into truth, we have to pay close attention with careful thought and study.

2 Timothy 2:15: TRUE FALSE

The King James Version says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God." In other words, God encourages diligent Bible study. If you dig deep into the Word of God, rich veins of truth will be found. It requires earnest effort and time, but the discoveries you make will be like finding valuable treasures in a field (See Matthew 13:44).

13. The people of Berea were commended for their acts of love.

Acts 17:10-11: TRUE FALSE

A revolution would sweep the earth if everyone searched their Bibles for a knowledge of God and His will.

14. The Psalmist likens the Bible to a light that illumines our pathway.

Psalms 119:105: TRUE FALSE

Amidst the many confusing teachings that claim to be inspired by God, there is only one source we can turn to for light and understanding—God's Word!

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. It is the only authority in man's possession by which, with the help of the Holy Spirit, he will be able to determine the truth as it is revealed from God. In Scripture, God has revealed to us knowledge that is necessary for salvation, and teachings that will reveal God's true character and unfold His plan for our lives.

15. Following these principles will help us better understand the Bible.

A. The various prophets of the Bible will be in harmony with one another in their presentations of Bible truth. Isaiah 8:19-20.

B. Consider not only the context of Bible passages, but also what other Scripture verses have to say on a given topic. Look at the big picture—not just a piece of it. In Romans 3:10-18 the apostle Paul gives us an example of comparing Scripture with Scripture. He quotes eight different Bible passages to support his statement of truth.

C. Keep an open mind. Allow the Holy Spirit to do His work. How tragic it would be to miss an inspiring view of God just because one has allowed long cherished views to block their vision. John 7:17.

16. Fulfilled prophecy demonstrates the accuracy of the Bible.

* Four world empires preceded a divided Europe.
Daniel 2.

* Babylon would never be re-inhabited.
Isaiah 13:19-22.

* Before his birth, Cyrus was prophesied by name to be the conqueror of Babylon.
Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1.

* The rise of Media-Persia, Greece and Rome were accurately described.
Daniel 8:20-21 and 8:9-12.

17. Modern archeology has confirmed the historical accuracy of the biblical record. Discoveries such as:

***The Moabite Stone** confirms the Bible story of the Moabite attacks on Israel as recorded in 2 Kings 1 and 3.*

***The Lachish Letters** describe the attack of Nebuchadnezzar on Jerusalem.*

***The Dead Sea Scrolls** date back to 150-170 B.C. and contain portions of all the books of the Old Testament with the exception of the book of Esther. This discovery in 1947 confirms the accuracy of our Bible today.*

***Cyrus' Cylinder** records his overthrow of Babylon and subsequent freeing of the Jews.*

***The Rosetta Stone** was the key that unlocked the mysterious Egyptian hieroglyphics, which have helped so much in confirming biblical accuracy.*

18. When a converted Christian truly wants to understand the things of God, God gives them a special ability to discern.

1 Corinthians 2:11-16: TRUE FALSE

19. Is it your desire to grow in your understanding of Scripture? YES NO