

ANCHORED

Lesson 1: Reliability of the Bible Pt. 1

DAY 1

Anchor Statement: I believe that the Bible consists of the Old Testament (39 books) and the New Testament (27 books). These books combined are what the Church is convicted to uphold as God-breathed and profitable for teaching.

The Bible is God-breathed, meaning that when we read God's Word (the Bible), we are truly reading the words of God to us. Through the Holy Spirit, God speaks through the personalities and styles of human authors to communicate His message. God's Word has power because He speaks to us through it even today.

The Bible is also profitable (which means beneficial) for teaching since God is the One teaching us through His Word. God's Word teaches, corrects, and trains us how to live for and walk with God. When we follow God, we allow Him to inform us about what His Word means rather than making Scripture about ourselves and our own experiences.

For believers, the Bible is more than a collection of books. It is a direct line of communication with God.

Something To Think About...

- How do you allow God to speak to you through His Word (the Bible)?
- What are some ways that you have seen God change you as you read the Bible?

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DAY 2

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – Psalm 119:105

In this week's lesson, we have seen that God's Word teaches us and guides us as we seek to follow Jesus in everyday life. Psalm 119:105 gives the example of God's Word being a light that illuminates the path in front of you.

Once it gets dark, take some time today to go on a walk. Take a flashlight or the flashlight on your phone, and do NOT leave the house alone without informing a parent or guardian where you are going. While walking, consider how God's Word functions like a flashlight in your life.

Spend some time today journaling about how God's Word lights your way in the dark as you walk with Him. In response, you could write a prayer, poem, or even draw a picture.

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DAY 3

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your Word." – Psalm 119:9

We live in this world as students seeking to follow Jesus. We walk with God by listening to and following His Word, yet we live in a world filled with many other voices calling us to take other paths and go other ways. If we are going to hear God's voice guiding us to follow His path to living for Him, we must learn to listen to His voice through His Word. This will often require us to pull away from the noise to connect to God.

Devotionals are meant to be a time to pull away from the world's noise to listen to God's voice. They are meant to be reminders of who God says we are and the different path He is calling us to walk daily. In other words, these moments are the little pep talks we need to help us regroup and realign with God. We can't take moments with God's Word for granted.

Pulling away from the noise requires a plan and an intention to do so. If not, God's voice in our lives will simply get lost in the noise around us, and our time with Him will become something else passed by on our busy schedules.

Something To Think About...

- What noises surround you that might be distracting you from God?
- What is your plan to set aside time and quiet for you to listen to the voice of God through His Word?

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Lesson 2: Reliability of the Bible Pt. 1

DAY 1

Anchor Statement: God has worked through His people to preserve Scripture in the way that He sees fit. The Holy Spirit is working through Scripture even today.

This week's Anchor statement comes from Joshua 1:8 and Luke 24:44. Take a few minutes to reread these passages.

The 66 books of the Bible were not random. They were determined based on a standard called the "canon," a measuring stick like a ruler. The books of the Bible were determined based on their connection to Jesus and being in line with the story of the Gospel. The Holy Spirit revealed these books to the Church!

The Holy Spirit, who leads the Church to understand God's Word, wants to speak to us as well, using the very same words of Scripture. We often rush through our devotionals and Bible reading without asking the Holy Spirit to speak to us. We run to get through our reading or spiritual practice without inviting the power behind God's Word to speak specifically to us. So today, let's end that bad habit and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us through His Word.

Something To Think About...

- Why do we rush without asking the Holy Spirit to speak to us? How can we be more intentional?
- What are some things we fear might happen if the Holy Spirit truly spoke to us through God's Word?
- What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you through God's Word today?

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Lesson 2: Reliability of the Bible Pt. 1

DAY 2

"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)

The word prophecy has more meaning than "___ will happen at ___ time from now." Did you know that prophecy is actually defined as a divinely inspired message that can be for instruction or encouragement as well?

God's Word is a prophecy from God and doesn't come from man's ideas... but from God Himself. The image in this passage is God carrying the authors of the Bible along by the Holy Spirit.

Take some time to reflect on that idea. You may want to draw a picture to illustrate the image, reflect on this image through journaling, or just spend some time thinking about the picture in the passage.

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“And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Paul writes to the church at Thessalonica, celebrating that they understood that God’s Word was not merely word from men but from God Himself. The Holy Spirit was at work in the people’s lives, opening their eyes to understand that God was working through people to deliver His Word!

In this verse, Paul is showing us how the Holy Spirit works in people’s lives through the Bible. The Word of God, the Bible, can work in our lives and those who may not yet follow Jesus. The Word is powerful because it is a vessel for the Holy Spirit’s work.

We have spent much of this lesson considering how the Holy Spirit works through the Bible in our lives. Now, like Paul, we want to consider how the Holy Spirit could work in the lives of our friends who don’t know Jesus. We can be faithful to share God’s Word with them and pray that the Holy Spirit would open their eyes to see that the message of Jesus is not merely the words of men but the Word of God.

Something To Think About...

- What could it look like for you to share God’s Word with a friend who doesn’t know Jesus?
- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you share the hope you have found in Jesus with someone who needs to hear it.

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Lesson 3: Reliability of the Bible Pt. 1

DAY 1

Anchor Statement: The Bible has been written by many witnesses over the course of many years, and yet it is entirely authored by God Himself.

Today, you are going to read several passages.

Exodus 34:27

Isaiah 30:8

Galatians 1:11-12

John 1:1-5,14

These passages show that the Holy Spirit inspires the people who wrote the Bible. It is not their words or ideas, but God's words and messages. The people who wrote the Bible understood their role and God's role in the process. We believe the words of the Bible are important because the Author is God Himself.

Jesus is also referred to as God's Word. He was there from the beginning. He created the world and came into that world as light into darkness. As the Word of God, we can look to Jesus to see what God is like and what it looks like to live our lives following God and obeying His Word.

Something To Think About...

- What responsibility do you feel the human writers of the Bible felt when they were receiving God's Word?
- What responsibility do we have to God's Word, considering the truth that the Holy Spirit is the author?

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DAY 2

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)

Before Jesus went to the Cross, He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray to His Father and prepare to give His life for us.

A good part of Jesus' prayer is focused on those who would come after Him and believe in His message. Jesus prayed they would represent Him well, unite, and be light in a dark world. Part of this prayer included a picture of how this was to be done. If future followers of Jesus were going to live for Him, they must be different from the world around them. The word "sanctify" is Jesus' description of the difference that people should live. Sanctify means to set apart or to make holy. Jesus is literally saying we are sanctified when we live lives that are holy and set apart.

How do we become more like Jesus? We are sanctified in the truth of His Word. As we read, know, and study the Word, we become different people who live as lights in the world around us. Just like Jesus came as light into darkness, we join Him in spreading His light until He returns.

Something To Think About...

- How does God's Word sanctify us or make us holy?
- What would it look like if you lived as a light in your world?

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“...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)

God's Word is not random. It has a purpose, and God accomplishes great things through His Word.

Read Isaiah 55:11.

Spend time journaling today about what God's Word has accomplished in you as You have read it and seen God speak to your heart through it.