

LESSON ONE: THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

SESSION ONE

TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small group discipleship study, please refer back to the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

This session is the first in a four-part series that explains how we know with certainty that the Bible is the Word of God. As Pastor Rogers has said, “Your salvation ... Your assurance ... Your spiritual growth ... Your power in witness [all] depend upon the confidence that you have in the Word of God.” Therefore, this and the next three sessions, are specifically designed to cause your group members consider and evaluate what they believe (or have believed) about the trustworthiness of Scripture, while developing their confidence in the Bible as God’s Word.

PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Lesson Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader’s Guide**.

CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to presenting it as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats recommended in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

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INTRODUCTION

Everyone believes in something, whether that something is true or false. Some choose to carefully examine information themselves while others blindly follow or accept what others may tell them without question. “If it sounds right, it must be right” is the motto for many in this age in which so much information (both true and false) is instantly available at our fingertips. In this study, Pastor Adrian Rogers will begin to state the case for the Bible being the Word of God by virtue of its scientific accuracy, something that many sceptics claim is a major flaw, though few have ever really examined the facts.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What is your opinion of the Bible? Do you believe it is fully trustworthy, or do you think there are parts of Scripture that science and history have proven to be false?
- Do you think we should rely upon pastors, academics, or other “experts” to tell us what is in the Bible and what it means, or do you think we each have the ability, and indeed the responsibility, to study and learn from Scripture ourselves?

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP 1 OF: “How to Know the Bible Is the Word of God”**AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION**

Your salvation depends upon understanding the Bible. Your assurance depends upon your understanding the Bible. Your spiritual growth depends upon your understanding the Bible. Your power in witness depends upon the confidence that you have in the Word of God.

—Adrian Rogers

Amplification: A common argument made against the Bible is that it is scientifically flawed, that it is antiquated, that modern science has made it obsolete or irrelevant. However, if you were to ask yourself, “Just exactly **where** is the Bible scientifically inaccurate?” would you be able to give an informed answer? As Pastor Rogers stated, “Many times people who are talking about scientific errors in the Bible don’t know science, and they don’t know the Bible.” The Bible, as the Word of God, is not intended to be a science textbook with detailed specifics of precise scientific information, but rather it contains principles and information that science, as it advances, is continually proving to be correct.

For Discussion: What doubts about the Bible’s scientific accuracy have you had, or maybe still have? Try to be specific about what you thought or might still believe.

Amplification: Consider Psalm 103:12, “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.” Did you know that on the globe we call, “Earth,” if you travel east, you will never reach west, you will continually be going east? Yet, if you travel north far enough, you will eventually find yourself going south. This can only be so if Earth is a sphere. Written nearly 2,000 years before man (science) ever even discovered that the Earth was round, it was contained in God’s Word. There is a reason why God said that He removes our transgressions “as far as the east is from the west,” as opposed to “as far as the north is from the south.”

For Discussion: Does having a better understanding of what the Bible actually says and how it is written provide you with more confidence in the validity of it being God’s Word? How so?

Amplification: The average person spends far more time watching TV, surfing the internet, playing video games, or reading other material than reading God’s Word. There is a general tendency to rely on others “more learned” than ourselves to inform us of what the Bible actually says or teaches. Instead of being like the psalmist who writes, “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God” (Psalm 42:1), we tend to squeeze our study of Scripture in between other activities that are far less worthy than reading the Word of God.

For Discussion: What can we do to make more time for personal Bible study in our lives?

Amplification: The Bible is said to be like a road map for life. It provides directions for health, wealth, happiness and, most importantly, for our salvation. Consider how much better the world would be if everyone would just follow the two great commandments of God, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind ... [and] You shall

love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39). If everyone would believe and follow these two great biblical commands, there would be no war, crime, or hatred in the world. Yet, the Bible remains a dust-gathering book on most people’s coffee tables or book shelves, and God’s instructions for life are sparsely gleaned from an occasional 30-minute sermon, **if** one even attends church.

For Discussion: If the Bible is indeed the Word of God and our instruction manual for life, why do you suppose it goes unread most of the time? Could that possibly account for many of the difficulties we personally encounter, and for the mess the world is in as a whole?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take time this week to read and study for yourself each of the suggested Scriptures listed in the “**Additional Scriptures to Study**” section. As you read and meditate, ask God to reveal His truth to you concerning the trustworthiness of His Word and the importance of applying it to our lives. You may want to journal your thoughts and impressions as a record of what the Lord reveals to you.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – “Lord, open our eyes and heart to Your truths.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you read and study the following Scriptures, consider the infinite power, majesty, and greatness of Who God is, and how He is revealed to us through His creation. Use this time of study to worship Him.

Job 26:7 “He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.”

Isaiah 40:22 “It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.”

Jeremiah 33:22 “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.”

Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Charles Hummel, “Priorities; Tyranny of the Urgent” (InterVarsity Press, 1994)
- Ken Ham, “Science Confirms the Bible” (Answers in Genesis, 2012)
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VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

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For Discussion: What can we do to make more time for personal Bible study in our lives?

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