

# LESSON ONE: THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

## SESSION FOUR

### TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** designed to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

### ABOUT THIS SESSION

This is the final of four sessions that, taken together, explain how we know with certainty that the Bible is the Word of God. In the previous sessions, Pastor Rogers confirmed the Bible's scientific accuracy, its historic accuracy, and its wondrous unity. In this session, Pastor Rogers will pursue three more confirmations of the Bible's divine origin; its prophetic accuracy, its everlasting quality, and its transforming power. Altogether, there are six irrefutable reasons for us to have complete confidence in the Bible being fully trustworthy and authoritative as the Word of God.

### PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session 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 being presented 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

Did you know there is an ongoing war being waged against the Word of God? From the beginning of recorded time, back to the very Garden of Eden, Satan has tried to convince mankind that God and His Word cannot be trusted. Many individuals have risen up throughout the ages who have actively attempted to deny, twist, or even destroy the Word of God. Others remain fearful of Scripture because they neither know nor understand what it actually says, or because they are living lifestyles that they inherently know are in direct conflict with what God would have them do. Those who choose to ignore or reject the truths contained in God's Word, the Bible, do so at their own peril.

### 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**

- In a book containing prophecies, or in the case of a person making prophetic utterances, if even one of the predictions fails to be true, should we believe that book or person can be trusted?
- With all of the attempts throughout history to destroy or discredit the Bible as God's Word, do you think there might be a Providential Hand at work serving to preserve it?
- There are many so-called "self-help" books on the market today that promote the promise of a better life if one practices certain disciplines. How do you think such books compare with "God-breathed" Scripture? Which would you rather follow, and why?

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

Only God can prophesy. No one else apart from God knows the future – no one! The only future that you know is the future that God has revealed in His Word. —**Adrian Rogers**

**Amplification:** Webster's New World Dictionary defines "prophecy" as the "prediction of the future under the influence of divine guidance." Most biblical scholars point to roughly 80(+) very specific and verifiable prophecies in the Old Testament that pertain to Jesus Christ alone, with around 300(+) others that contain corollaries to His life that are assumed to be prophetic. The chance of any one man fulfilling only eight of the 80 major prophecies fulfilled by the life of Christ is astronomical. Dr. Peter W. Stoner, a scientist, mathematician, and astronomer, along with Dr. Robert C. Newman, an astrophysicist and mathematician, calculated the probability of Jesus having fulfilled just eight prophecies to be 1 in  $10^{17}$ . That's 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000!

Our minds are incapable of fully grasping that figure, so Drs. Stoner and Newman provided a practical illustration of how that mathematical probability would play out. It would be as if the entire state of Texas were covered two feet deep in silver dollars with one specifically marked coin placed somewhere in the mass. Then a blind man would walk across the state and pluck up that marked coin on his very first try. Keep in mind, that probability is considering only eight of the 80(+) specifically agreed upon prophecies, with still another 300(+) likely fulfilled prophecies concerning Christ that are found in the Old Testament. And this statistical analysis examined only one prophetic subject of the Bible, that of Jesus the Christ!

**For Discussion:** Why do you think the undisputed mathematical probabilities attesting to the fulfilled biblical prophecies of Jesus Christ are virtually ignored, even among intelligent and academically-minded people?

**Amplification:** God gave us the Bible that we might know Him, His love for us, and His plan for us to live prosperously (meaning righteous, healthy, and bountiful lives). But most importantly, He gave us His Word that we may know the redemption He has provided for our sins and failures through His Son, Jesus Christ. No matter what effort is made by the enemies of God to remove or destroy the Bible, not "one jot or one tittle" (the smallest characters of Hebrew script), will ever be removed from His Word (Matthew 5:18).

Because Scripture is "God-breathed," it contains life and power beyond what any ordinary man, or group of men, could ever produce using cleverly selected words. Pastor Rogers has talked about the Bible's scientific accuracy, its historic accuracy, its prophetic accuracy, its wondrous unity, and its ever-living quality. But what truly separates the Bible from all other books ever written, and from those that will ever be written, is its supernatural transforming power. The Bible is not a magical book, but it does possess God-given power to transform the life of one who truly seeks with his/her heart to know God and His ways. God promises that "you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

A learned seminary professor once challenged his class of “neophyte theologians” (newbies) by holding up his Bible while making the following statement, “Gentlemen, this is the Word of God, but it does not become the Word of God until you read it and apply it to your life!” He looked around the classroom at all of the heads nodding approval and then said, “**Wrong!** This **is** the Word of God whether or not you ever pick it up to read and apply it to your life!”

**For Discussion:** What steps do you think we need to take in order to allow God’s Word to become more real in our lives?

**Amplification:** Psalm 119:9-11 says, “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”

The Bible is not the Book of the Month; it is the Book of Ages. We read other books; this book [the Bible] reads us. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** Share with your group a specific portion or aspect of Scripture that you might now be willing to pay more attention to, and why.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week as you continue to develop your personal time of devotion and Bible study, be sure to open your heart to the Lord by asking Him to transform you “by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God,” (Romans 12:2). Have a 3x5” card handy to write down a meaningful Scripture to memorize, and make it a practice to commit at least one verse of Scripture to memory each week.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we praise You for your transforming power; yes, we praise You for Your mercies, for You are our defense and refuge in days of trouble.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you read the following Scriptures, consider the power that is contained in the Word of God that is too often ignored or taken for granted.

**Jeremiah 23:29** “Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

**Psalm 119:89-93 (NKJV)** “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. They continue this day according to Your ordinances, for all are Your servants. Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.”

Consider how the Word of God is unlike any other book ever written, and that as Pastor Rogers said, “We read other books; this book [the Bible] reads us.”

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

As you read the following passage, think about the miraculous trustworthiness of biblical prophecy. Meditate on how God used 40 different authors over a span of nearly 2,000 years, who spoke and

wrote in three different languages from different continents, to produce 66 perfectly unified books in what we know as the Bible.

**2 Peter 1:19-21** “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

**Additional Reading Resources**

- David Limbaugh, “Jesus on Trial” (Regency Publishing: New York, NY, 2014)
- D. L. Moody, “Secret Power” (Chicago: F. H. Revell, 1881)
- Henrietta C. Mears, “What the Bible is All About” (Gospel Light Publications, 1996)
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### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

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