

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

A BOOK YOU CAN TRUST

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HEBREWS 11:1

Now faith is the substance
of things hoped for,
the evidence of things
not seen.



ROMANS 15:13

Now the God of hope fill
you with all joy and peace
in believing, that ye may
abound in hope, through
the power of the Holy Ghost.



LESSON 1

A Book You Can Trust

Can the Bible be trusted—and can its words change your life?

KEY VERSE

“Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.”

— John 17:17

Introduction

The Bible claims to be more than a record of religious thought. It presents itself as God's word given through human messengers, a reliable guide to truth, a witness to Jesus Christ, and a living power that works in those who receive it by faith. This lesson asks the Bible to explain its own origin, purpose, central message, power, and proper use.

Question-and-Bible-Answer Study

1. By what names does the Bible identify its sacred writings?

“Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?”

— Matthew 21:42

“And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.”

— Luke 8:21

2. How were the Scriptures given?

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

— 2 Timothy 3:16

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

— 2 Peter 1:21

Study note. The Bible joins divine authorship with human messengers: God gave the message, and holy men spoke as the Holy Spirit moved them.

3. Who spoke through the prophets?

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.”

— Hebrews 1:1

“The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and His word was in my tongue.”

— 2 Samuel 23:2

4. Why were the Scriptures written?

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

— Romans 15:4

5. What can the Scriptures do for the believer?

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

— 2 Timothy 3:15

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

— 2 Timothy 3:16-17

6. Why may God’s word be trusted as truth?

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”

— Titus 1:2

“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.”

— Deuteronomy 32:4

“Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.”

— John 17:17

Study note. The trustworthiness of Scripture rests upon the truthful character of the God who gave it.

7. How long will the word of God endure?

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.”

— Isaiah 40:8

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”

— Matthew 24:35

8. What guidance does God intend His word to provide?

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

— Psalm 119:105

9. To whom do the Scriptures point?

“Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.”

— John 5:39

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

— Luke 24:27

Study note. Jesus is the center of Scripture. Bible study reaches its intended goal when it leads the reader to know and believe Him.

10. Where does the Bible first promise a Redeemer?

“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.”

— Genesis 3:15

11. Who is the promised Seed through whom all nations would be blessed?

“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”

— **Genesis 22:18**

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

— **Galatians 3:16**

12. Who was the spiritual Rock that accompanied Israel?

“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

— **1 Corinthians 10:4**

13. What did the prophets reveal about Christ’s suffering and glory?

“Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?”

— **Luke 24:25-26**

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

— **Luke 24:27**

14. What does the word of God reveal about His creative power?

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth... For he spake, and it was *done*; he commanded, and it stood fast.”

— **Psalms 33:6, 9**

“Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

— Hebrews 1:3

15. How is that creative word connected with the new birth?

“Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

— 1 Peter 1:23

Study note. The God who created by His word also uses that word to bring spiritual life and renewal to the believer.

16. How does God’s word work in those who believe?

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

— 1 Thessalonians 2:13

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

— Psalm 119:11

17. How is the living power of God’s word described?

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

— Hebrews 4:12

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.”

— John 6:63

18. Who is called the Word of God, and what is found in Him?

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

— John 1:1

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

— John 1:4

“And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.”

— Revelation 19:13

Study note. The written word bears witness to Jesus Christ, the living Word. Scripture does not offer life apart from Him; it invites the reader to come to Him and believe.

19. With what attitude and care should the Scriptures be studied?

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

— Acts 17:11

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.”

— Isaiah 8:20

Study note. The Bereans listened readily, but they tested what they heard by Scripture. Careful Bible study receives truth humbly and verifies teaching from the Bible itself.

20. Whose help do we need in order to understand spiritual truth?

“But the Comforter, *which* is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

— John 14:26

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

— Psalm 119:18

21. What conditions accompany the promise of understanding?

“Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”

— Proverbs 2:3-5

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.”

— John 7:17

22. How should we receive God’s word as daily spiritual food?

“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.”

— Deuteronomy 8:3

“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”

— Jeremiah 15:16

23. What response does God desire from those who hear His word?

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

— James 1:22

“But he said, Yea rather, blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it.”

— Luke 11:28

Lesson Summary

- The Scriptures were given by inspiration of God through men moved by the Holy Spirit.
- Because God cannot lie and is the God of truth, His word is a trustworthy standard of truth.
- The Bible gives hope, makes us wise unto salvation through faith in Christ, and equips us for good works.
- Jesus Christ is the central subject of Scripture—from the first promise of a Redeemer to His future glory.
- God’s word carries creative, life-giving power and works effectively in those who believe.
- The Bible should be studied prayerfully, carefully, daily, and with a willingness to obey what God reveals.

Personal Response

Consider these questions quietly and answer them in your own words:

1. What reason from this study gives you the strongest confidence that the Bible can be trusted?

2. What practical change would help you study Scripture more prayerfully and consistently?
3. Is there a teaching, habit, or decision you are willing to test by God's word and follow as He gives you understanding?