



Life Lesson

THE BIBLE:

God's Word for God's People

PURPOSE:

To establish the Bible as the primary authority in religion.

Many people have a generalized, vague respect for the Bible, but few have a firm conviction that the Bible is to be the full and complete authority in matters of religion and life. Not many people, even religious people, understand the proper division between the Old and New Testaments. Encourage the person you study with to begin daily Bible reading, study, and prayer time. Some people make decisions about the Bible without knowing much about it. Encourage them to study.

PLAN:

To study three key questions to help us see the importance of the Bible and then to notice five major hindrances to accepting the Bible as fully authoritative.

INTRODUCTION:

Have you had much experience reading or studying the Bible?
Does it seem to you to be a difficult book to understand?

IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

A. WHERE IS IT FROM? II Peter 1:20-21

Where did the men who wrote the Bible get their ideas? v. 21

This is a good definition of inspiration.

What do you think Peter means by saying that the scriptures did not come about by the prophet's own interpretation? *It did not originate with him.*
Scripture means what it says; we are not to add our ideas to it.

B. WHAT IS IT FOR? II Timothy 3:16-17

What do these verses say about the usefulness of the scriptures?
What does "God breathed" mean? *inspired; see II Peter 1:20-21*
What is the result? v. 17
Do you think you could use some help in getting close to God?

C. HOW DOES IT WORK? Hebrews 4:12

How is the word of God described here?
Can you think of ways that the word of God is like a two-edged sword?
Cuts away the bad, like a surgeon's scalpel.
You may learn things about yourself that surprise you, but it will always be for your benefit.
If we come across something in scripture that you're doing wrong, would you be willing to change it?

HINDRANCES TO BIBLE AUTHORITY

We are going to look at five things that hinder us from receiving God's Word in our heart. We'll use the word "heart" for an acronym.

A. HERITAGE. John 8:31-32

After reading the passage, write "Heritage" on the line.

To whom was Jesus talking? Were they believers?
How would you paraphrase what Jesus told them?
How did they react to Jesus' teaching? v. 33
What were they depending on?
How do people depend on their heritage today?
What attitudes made them react so negatively? v. 44
If you base your decisions on your heritage instead of scripture, what does that mean?

B. EMOTIONS. Romans 10:1-3

Write "Emotions" on the second line.

Were the Jews sincere? Were they zealous? Were they wrong?
Have you ever felt you were right only to learn later that you were wrong?
If something in God's word conflicts with your feelings, which do you choose?

C. APATHY. James 1:22-25

Write "Apathy" on the third line.

What good does it do to read the Word and not obey it?
Why does James say we are "deceiving" ourselves when we only hear the Word and don't put it into practice?

Luke 6:46-49 -- Use as an extra verse if time permits.

What are the two types of men in this story?
What does Jesus mean by "torrent"?
What happens to the two houses?
Why does one stand while the other falls?

D. RELIGIOUS TEACHERS. Acts 17:10-12

Write "Religious Teachers" on the 4th and 5th lines.

Why were the Bereans of more noble character than the Thessalonians?
How often did they study?

Don't accept what I tell you unless it agrees with the Bible.

E. TRADITIONS. Matthew 15:1-9

Write "Traditions" on the last line.

Why was Jesus so upset with these Jews?
Upon what were they basing their religious authority?

SUMMARY: Five major items that interfere with Bible authority are: Heritage, Emotions, Apathy, Religious Authorities, and Tradition.

Which of these do you think would give you the most difficulty?

Make a decision now on how you will respond if you ever find these items causing interference in your life.

GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY. John 5:39-40

Had the Jews studied the scriptures?
What is the source of eternal life? Jesus or the Bible?

The purpose of the Bible is to lead us to a deeper faith in God. It is a means to an end.

Encourage your student to begin daily Bible reading. Write down an assignment, for example Mark 1-6, to be read by the next study session.

WORKSHEET The Bible: God's Word for God's People

Helps

These questions will help us see the importance of the Bible.

1. Where is it from?
II Peter 1:20-21

2. What is it for?
II Timothy 3:16-17

3. How does it work?
Hebrews 4:12

Hindrances

It's not an easy task to let the Bible be the final authority. There are many hindrances that keep the word from taking root in our HEART and producing fruit.

H _____
John 8:31-32; 44

E _____
Romans 10:1-3

A _____
James 1:22-25

R _____
_____ Acts 17:10-12

T _____
Matthew 15:1-9

The Goal of Bible Study: John 5:39-40
Assignment: _____