

Tree of Life Discipleship Series

Booklet 2

Nutrients

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Psalm 119:97

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103

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

Booklet 2 – Nutrients

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Symbols Used in the Series



When you see this symbol in the booklets, stop and pray right then about what God is saying to you.



When you see this symbol it means there is a homework assignment to do.



When you see this symbol it means the subject is like a deep well and requires special thought.

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Lesson 1 – The Word of God

In this lesson you will learn:

- Jesus is the living Word of God and the Bible is the written word of God.
- Every book in the Bible points to Jesus

After a tree has anchored roots in the soil it can begin to pull nutrients (food) for growth. In the same way you have planted your salvation in Jesus Christ and become anchored in him. Now it is time to feed on his nutrients and grow in Christ-like maturity.

Our nutrients come from the Word of God.

1) Read John 1:1-14 and Revelation 19:11-13. Who is meant by, 'the Word' and 'the Word of God?'



Jesus is the Word of God because he is one with all that God is. Therefore God speaks to us through Jesus Christ. This is a deep mystery man cannot yet fully understand

Nevertheless, it is a wonderful truth worthy of deep thinking.

2) Look up Colossians 1:19 and John 14:9-11. What do these passages tell you about the relationship between God the Father and Jesus the Son?

3) Read what Jesus said about the Scriptures in John 5:39. According to this, what is the purpose of the Bible?

4) The Bible is a basket the Holy Spirit uses to carry us to Jesus. When we look closely, we see every book of the Bible points to Jesus, at least through analogy (symbolically).

Old Testament Book	Main Revelation About Jesus
Genesis	The Seed of the Woman
Exodus	The Passover Lamb
Leviticus	The High Priest
Numbers	The Cloud and The Fire
Deuteronomy	The Prophet Like Moses
Joshua	The Captain of Our Salvation
Judges	The Judge And Lawgiver
Ruth	The Kinsman Redeemer
1 & 2 Samuel	The Prophet of The Lord
1 & 2 Kings	The Lord Our King
1 & 2 Chronicles	The Reigning King
Ezra	The Faithful Scribe
Nehemiah	The Rebuilder of the Walls
Esther	He is Our Mordecai
doL	The Dayspring From on High
Psalms	The Lord Who Is Our Shepherd
Proverbs & Ecclesiastes	The Wisdom of Jesus
Song of Solomon	The Lover (church) & Bridegroom (Jesus)
Isaiah	The Suffering Servant
Jeremiah & Lamentations	The Weeping Prophet
Ezekiel	The Son of Man
Daniel	The Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven
Hosea	The Bridegroom
Joel	The Baptizer With The Holy Spirit
Amos	The Burden Bearer
Obadiah	The Mighty Savior
Jonah	The Forgiving God
Micah	The Messenger With Beautiful Feet
Nahum	The Avenger of God's Elect
Habakkuk	The Great Evangelist, Crying For Revival
Zephaniah	The Restorer of the Remnant
Haggai	The Cleansing Fountain
Zechariah	The Pierced Son
Malachi	The Son of Righteousness

The Bible is the greatest book given to humans. Daily study is not painful, but the joyous blessing of personal time spent with the Creator. Enjoy God through using his Bible.



Spend time in prayer to commit when and where you will maintain daily quiet times.



Ask a friend to make you accountable for daily quiet times.

Review of Lesson 4

- Your quiet time with Jesus is the most important part of the day.
- Using the Bible is a great way to spend time with Jesus.
- At the beginning of each day, read a section of the Bible, meditate, and pray.

Summary of Booklet 2 - Nutrients

- Jesus is the living Word of God.
- The Holy Spirit uses the Bible to carry us to Jesus.
- The Bible is trustworthy.
- Have daily quiet times with Jesus.

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New Testament Book	Main Revelation
Matthew	The Messiah
Mark	The Miracle Worker
Luke	The Son of Man
John	The Son of God
Acts	The Ascended Lord
Romans	The Justifier
1 & 2 Corinthians	The Last Adam
Galatians	The One Who Sets Us Free
Ephesians	The Christ of Riches
Philippians	The God Who Meets Our Every Need
Colossians	The Fullness of The Godhead
1 & 2 Thessalonians	The Soon Coming King
1 & 2 Timothy	The Mediator Between God And Man
Titus	The Blessed Hope
Philemon	The Friend, Closer Than a Brother
Hebrews	The Blood That Washes Away My Sins
James	The Great Physician
1 & 2 Peter	The Chief Shepherd
1 & 2 & 3 John	Everlasting Love
Jude	The God our Savior
Revelation	The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

This chart shows a few of the many prophecies about Jesus written in the Old Testament. They were first recorded more than 500 years before Jesus.

Topic	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Place of birth	"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the	"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea" (Matthew 2:1).
	for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2), 700 BC.	
Born of a	e virgin will be with child and will	"His mother Mary was pledged to be
virgin		married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:18).
His triumphal	"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!	"They took palm branches and went out
entry	Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See,	to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed
	your king comes to you, righteous	is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
	and having salvation, gentle and	Blessed is the King of Israel!' Jesus found
	of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9), 500 BC.	12:13-14).
His rejection	"He was despised and rejected by	"He came to that which was his own, but
	men Like one from whom men	his own did not receive him" (John 1:11).
	hide their faces he was despised, and	
	we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3), 700 BC.	
Crucified with	"He was numbered with the	"Two robbers were crucified with him,
sinners	transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12), 700 BC.	one on his right and one on his left" (Matthew 27:38).
Hands and feet	Hands and feet "They have pierced my hands and my	"Put your finger here; see my hands.
pierced	feet" (Psalm 22:16), 1000 BC.	Reach out your hand and put it into my side" (John 20:27).
His	"You will not abandon me to the	"You killed the author of life, but God
resurrection	grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay" (Psalm 16:10), 1000 BC.	raised him from the dead" (Acts 3:15).
His ascension	"You ascended on high" (Psalm 68:18), 1000 BC.	"He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their
		sight" (Acts 1:9).

The Bible is the error-free written word of God. Its truth must, therefore, guide our faith. However, we must not allow the Bible to become a talisman or good luck charm. The truth about Jesus found in the Bible is to be loved, not the ink, paper, and leather. God alone (Father, Son, Spirit) is to be worshiped.



There is one God but in three persons known as the Trinity: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit. Just as you have three

minity. God, Jesus, mory spirit. Just as you have unless

15) In John 15:7, what is the condition Jesus gives for receiving what you ask for?

Tips For Reading the Bible

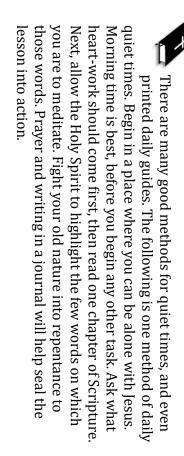
- Begin with the Gospel of John.
- Use a system to ensure you eventually read the entire Bible (see chart on last page).
- Read both Testaments, however, spend more time reading the New Testament. The covenant (agreement) found in the New Testament fulfills and replaces the covenants of the Old Testament.
- As you read, understand how the Spirit of Jesus is speaking into your life.
- Read slowly and apply the truths shown to you. Learn the habit of acting on lessons, even if they call for self-sacrifice.
- Be patient with the Spirit's teaching of truth in his time. Bible study is a lifelong task.
- Understand passages by how they fit into their books and into the whole Bible. Read all the Bible has to say on a subject.
- Spend most of your time meditating on the basic truths (See Booklet 1, Roots, Lesson 4).
- Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the eternal truth of each passage, rather than only copying the cultural ways.
- 16) As an example of the last point above, read 2 Corinthians 13:12. What is the cultural command? How can you put the eternal truth into action if kissing is not acceptable in your culture?

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- Develop deep friendship with Jesus.
- Receive strength for the coming day.

Not all of these goals are met every day; however, it is good to spend enough time to receive all that God has for you that day

14) According to Matthew 6:6, who should be present when you have your quiet time?



A good way to pray is to use this order A.C.T.S.:

- A-Adoration (praise) of the Trinity
- C-Confess known sins.
- T-Thanksgiving for all God is doing for you.
- S-Supplication (asking) for other's and your needs.

The true disciple will strive to keep Jesus at the center of every activity through on-going prayer.

As you advance in prayer, you will learn to listen to Jesus as much as you talk. By listening to Jesus, you pray according to his will. When you pray according to his will, and wait on his timing, he grants every request. Thus, in true prayer you wrestle to understand his desires.

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parts (body, mind, and spirit), so God has three persons

Review of Lesson 1

- Jesus is the living Word of God, and the Bible is the written word of God.
- Every book in the Bible points to Jesus



Lesson 2 – Overview of the Bible

In this lesson you will learn:

- How the Bible was written.
- The Bible reveals the character of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
- Summary of the contents of the Bible.

The Bible is a collection of sixty-six books by forty different writers. They wrote in Hebrew, a small part in Aramaic, and in Greek.

4) Read 2 Peter 1:21. Who inspired the words of the prophets?

5) According to 2 Timothy 3:14-17, what is the source of Scripture?

6) In Hebrews 4:12, what parts of the human being can the word of God affect?

The Bible is trustworthy because God breathed the words into the writers. The Bible provides a record of how the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit showed themselves to the world. It tells us that God is unchanging, merciful, compassionate, against sin, pure, all knowing, all powerful, and yet he is also humble to the point he accepted punishment and death at the hands of men. These true qualities of God are only found in the Christian Bible.

The following chart summarizes the contents of the Bible.

Old Point Forv	Old Testament Books Point Forward to lesus (39 Books)	ooks (39 Books)		Point B	New Testament Books Point Backward to Iesus (27 Books)	o oks (27 Books)
History	Poetry	Prophecy		History	Teaching	Prophecy
Law	Job	Major	400	Gospels	Paul's Letters	Revelation
Genesis	Psalms	Prophets	Years of	Matthew	Romans	
Exodus	Proverbs	Isaiah	()	Mark	1 Corinthians	
Leviticus	Ecclesiastes	Jeremiah	Before	Luke	2 Corinthians	
Numbers	Song of	Lamentations	the	John	Galatians	
Deuteronomy	Solomon	Ezekiel	Cross		Ephesians	
		Daniel		The	Philippians	
History and				Early	Colossians	
government		Minor		Church	1 Thessalonians	
Joshua		Prophets		Acts	2 Thessalonians	
Judges		Hosea			1 Timothy	
Ruth		Joel			2 Timothy	
1 Samuel		Amos			Titus	
2 Samuel		Obadiah			Philemon	
1 Kings		Jonah				
2 Kings		Micah			General Letters	
1 Chronicles		Nahum			Hebrews	
2 Chronicles		Habakkuk			James	
Ezra		Zephaniah			1 Peter	
Nehemiah		Haggai			2 Peter	
Esther		Zechariah			1 John	
		Malachi			2 John	
					3 John	
					Jude	

Memorize the sections in the chart above and learn which section each book belongs to. This will help you as you use the Bible for the rest of your life. Ask a friend to test you.

the Bible for the rest of your life. Ask a friend to test you.

A daily time of feeding on the teachings of Jesus is more important than eating food each day. Food only helps the body, which is not the real you. The real you is your soul and spirit. That is the part of you that will last through eternity and must be fed and encouraged to grow daily.

12) In John 6:48-51 what does Jesus compare himself to? What does this teach you about how often you must feed on the truth of Jesus?

13) Read Luke 5:16 and Mark 1:35. According to these verses, how did Jesus feed with his Father?

Each day, at least once a day, the sincere believer will meet with Jesus and feed on his truth. One of the best ways is to meditate (think deeply) on Scripture and pray. Study of the Bible is good, however, meditation is better. Study results in knowledge, meditation results in a changed heart and changed actions. In meditation we allow the Holy Spirit to show us how to become more like Jesus.

The goals of a daily quiet time are:

- Learn the heart and ways of Jesus.
- Become aware of sin and repent.
- Receive guidance and direction
- Understand your life from God's point of view.
- Prayer and praise.
- Learn to have a trusting, Christ-centered inner self.

RECOGNITION

Was the book accepted by the early churches and was it in continuous use since the beginning?

TEACHING

Was it in agreement with the teachings of Christ?

In 393 A.D. the Synod of Hippo agreed on the twenty-seven books of the New Testament as we use them today, however, this was not a new decision. They agreed on what had been in the mind of the churches since shortly after the Apostles died. Therefore, there is powerful historical proof that our New Testament should be trusted.

Review of Lesson 3

- The Old Testament was carefully saved by the Jews and approved by Jesus.
- The New Testament is historically proven and was approved by the early church.



Lesson 4 – How to Feed

In this lesson you will learn:

- The most important activity you can do each day.
- Why study the Bible.
- How to study.

11) In Luke 10:38-42 Martha was busy preparing food. Jesus spoke to her and said only one thing was necessary. What was the one thing?

The Catholic and Orthodox Bibles have additional books in the Old Testament. These books were all written between 170 B.C and 70 A.D. (before Jesus) and are not considered important by Protestants. The Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox New Testaments are the same. The current chapter and verse numbering system used in the Bible was added in the 16th century.

Review of Lesson 2

- The Bible was inspired by God
- The Bible reveals the nature of the Trinity.
- The Old Testament points forward to Jesus, and the New Testament points backward to him.



Lesson 3 – The Bible is Trustworthy

In this lesson you will learn:

- Why we trust the Old Testament.
- Why we trust the New Testament

The Bible took 1,500 years to write (from 1400 B.C. to 100 A.D.) In those old times, the pages used for books did not last long. Therefore, we no longer have the original documents. It is necessary to understand the history of the Bible so we can verify its source and trust the words.

The books of the Old Testament were carefully guarded by the Israelites. Many committed their life's work to copying and saving each text with the highest standards. Scribes (copiers) were required to be completely bathed and wear special clothes. As line-by-line copies were made, proofreaders counted the letters of each line and checked the count against the original. More proofreaders compared sentence counts of the whole document.

The Jews carefully followed these ways through the many years the Old Testament was guarded.

7) Moses wrote most of first five books of the Old Testament. In Deuteronomy 31:24-26, to whom did Moses give the responsibility of saving the Bible?



The most important proof we have for the Old Testament is that Jesus often quoted from it and used it in his teachings. Jesus' rising from the dead gives him authority to approve the Old Testament.

In 1947 copies of the Old Testament were discovered in eleven caves near the Dead Sea in Palestine. The Jewish scribes used their special methods to make these copies as early as 150 B.C. These were the same Scriptures in use at the time of Jesus. The Dead Sea Scrolls prove that the Old Testament has not changed from before the time of Jesus, until today, more than 2,000 years later.

8) In Luke 24:44, what parts of the Old Testament does Jesus say prophesy about him?

9) First read Matthew 22:41-46. Now compare the words of Jesus to Psalm 110:1. Based on this comparison, how would you describe the respect Jesus had for the Old Testament?

APOSTOLIC
Was it written
the twelve Ap

We have the words of Jesus to prove the Old Testament from its first writing until his time. Then we have the Dead Sea Scrolls to prove the Old Testament from the time of Jesus until now. The result is the Old Testament is unchanged, accurate, and given by God.

The New Testament was written from about 45 A.D. to 100 A.D. While we do not have the original pages, we have more than 5,000 early copies or parts (from before 300 A.D.) that date back to as early as 117 A.D. The Rylands Library Papyrus P52 is a copy of the Gospel of John and dated with scientific methods to between 117 A.D. and 138 A.D. Therefore, we have pages that were made between seventeen and forty-eight years after the originals.

New Testament events are also proved because they are talked about in non-Christian histories (Ex. Tacitus, A.D. 64; Pliny the Younger, A.D. 112; Josephus, A.D. 40-100; Talmud, A.D. 70-200)

10) Read Luke 1:1-4 and John 20:30, 31. Why did Luke and John write their gospels?

The early church fathers wanted to protect the new church from wrong teachings. They established rules for which books were allowed into the New Testament. The three rules for acceptance were:

- APOSTOLIC
- RECOGNITION
- TEACHING

Was it written by an Apostle or by a student or associate of one of the twelve Apostles?