



Lifelines for Youth

The Book You Can



Lesson 1 – December 2, 2018
How to Study the Bible



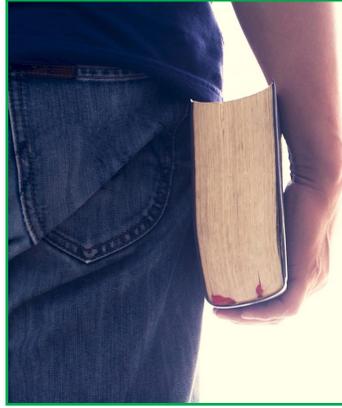
His Lines Proverbs 30:5, 6;
Matthew 5:17-20;
2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

Proverbs 30. ⁵Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. ⁶Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Matthew 5. ¹⁷Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. ¹⁸For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. ¹⁹Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

2 Timothy 3. ¹⁴But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; ¹⁵and 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. ¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1. ¹⁹We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: ²⁰knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For 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.



Headlines:

The Book You Can Trust

The Reliability of the Bible

Royal Line:

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).



Opening Lines

God's Word, the Bible, is the best-selling and most-quoted book on earth. It is a small library in itself, composed of sixty-six books. The words were recorded by forty authors, all under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Most of them had nothing in common and knew very little, if anything, about each other.

The writers were of diverse skills. Moses, the first writer, had been trained in the greatest university of Egypt, but Peter, one of the New Testament penmen, was only a lowly fisherman. We do not know whether he ever attended any school.

The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years, in three different languages, on three different continents.

While different religions claim to have holy books, there are errors and discrepancies in them all. God's Word, the Bible, is the only true authority.

The Bible is as relevant today as it was when it was first penned. It is the basis for all authority. It is the hope for all mankind. It is the eternal, infallible Word of the only true and living God – the written revelation of His divine will for mankind.

Between the Lines



God's Word Is Sacred

(Prov. 30:5, 6)

Agur's search for God led him to this conclusion: One thing is sure – God's Word. Because it is God's Word, it is sacred. We are not to tamper with it or change it. We are to accept it and practice it just as God gave it.

It is free from error. God never changes His opinions, commands, or expectations. There is no corruption in God's Word. Although the Bible records some immoral practices of man, it is only revealing mankind as he is while also revealing the holiness of God.

In its precepts, directives, and revelation of God to man, the Bible is pure and sacred. The Bible inspires faith and reverence for the God of the Bible.

1. If the Bible is sacred, how should we treat it? Should we worship the Bible?

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Editor of Publications: Gordon L. Snider
Youth Editor: Michelle Avery
Lesson Comments: Lavena Crooks
Activities: Lavena Crooks,
Gordon Snider

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2. Times are much different now than when the Bible was written. How can the same words meet their needs and ours too?

God's Word Is Enduring

(Matt. 5:17-20)

Jesus didn't destroy God's Word as given to the prophets, but He did fulfill much of it. Christ became the perfect sacrifice. He obeyed the law by obeying His parents, hallowing the Sabbath, praying, and helping the poor.

In essence, Jesus was saying in His Sermon on the Mount, "Don't think for a minute that I've come to destroy the Old Testament! Not one punctuation mark of my Word, not one stroke of the pen, will be destroyed until everything is accomplished!"

Not one thing that any man can say or do will change the validity of God's Word.

1. Is it necessary for the New Testament Christian today to obey the Old Testament?

2. The Book of Hebrews says that the New Testament is better than the old one. In what way is it better? Since both are from God, how can one be better than the other?

God's Word Is Inspired

(2 Tim. 3:14-17)

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God" – God-breathed, God-directed, and God-anointed. The human author was actually writing the words of the great, sovereign God of the universe. Paul urged Timothy to remain faithful to the Scriptures he had been taught because they were "able to make [him] wise unto salvation."

"All scripture" includes all the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Since all Scripture is God-breathed, it teaches us the true faith in the living God and trains us in the ways of righteousness and moral discipline.

1. Does the word "inspire" mean that the writers of the Bible were God's "robots" who wrote for Him? How can you tell from the text itself?

2. What is the difference in meaning for the word "inspire" in the following two statements: "This song was inspired by a certain event in my life," and "God's Word is inspired"?

God's Word Is Sure

(2 Peter 1:19-21)

Peter had been on the Mount of Transfiguration and heard God's words, "This is my beloved Son: hear him." He had seen the empty tomb and had been in the Upper Room when Jesus made His personal appearance. He knew that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah. Now he enlightens the new Christians. "We have not followed cunningly devised fables" (2 Peter 1:16).

A "more sure word" refers to his personal encounters with Christ and the direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Something that is sure is totally trustworthy. Peter is saying, "We have the word from the prophets; and we have believed it. Now we have the message of those prophets fully confirmed in Christ."

1. What meaning do the Old Testament prophecies have for us today?

2. Why is the Bible more meaningful to us at some times than at others?

3. Why is it important for us to know the Bible is God-inspired?



Your Lines

Bible Search

Read the following passages of Scripture and answer the question for each one.

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

What authority did Jesus use to answer Satan?

Matthew 19:3-6

How did Jesus interpret the story of the creation of man as given in Genesis?

Matthew 22:29-40

What authority did Jesus use to answer those who questioned Him?

Luke 24:25-27

How did Jesus describe those who didn't believe the Old Testament prophecies?

John 5:46, 47

What did Jesus say would be the result of not believing the Old Testament?

¹⁷Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. ¹⁸For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. ¹⁹Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

– Matthew 5:17-20

What Can We Learn?

Read this passage from Matthew, then answer the questions below.

1. Who recorded this passage?
2. Who was he quoting?
3. What two things did the speaker make clear in verse 17?
4. How long will God's law be with us?
5. What two main things did the speaker teach in verse 19?

The Bottom Line

People trust people who keep their promises!

Lines From the Bible

S Numbers 24:15-19. Balaam, pressed to say things against God and His people, instead gave a beautiful prophecy about the Messiah. God's plan won't be changed by anyone, no matter who they are.

M Deuteronomy 18:15-19. Moses had a long message for the Israelites at the end of his life, and God used it to remind them of His promises. What promises from God do you need to remember and claim today?

T Job 19:21-29. Job, greatly afflicted by Satan and tormented by his friends, had something wonderful to say about the coming Messiah.

W Psalm 40:1-17. David also sang

about Christ. In fact, many songs have been written about Christ. Which means the most to you?

T Isaiah 53:1-12. Isaiah prophesied so much about Christ, the book is often called the Old Testament's gospel. Chapter 53 describes Jesus' sacrifice in very vivid terms.

F Luke 2:1-20. Like was a well-educated man writing to a highly respected leader. His record of Jesus' birth is carefully researched, clearly organized, and beautifully written. Are you that careful when you talk about Christ?

S John 5:39-47. The Bible is God's Word, but simply concentrating on it will not make you a Christian. Jesus is the key – both to understanding the Bible and to getting to heaven.



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