



BELIEVE: Bible 101
Introduction to the Bible

Leader's Guide

Video Introduction (1 min.)

Bible Pop Quiz (12-15 mins.)

1. How many books are there in the Bible? How many are in the Old Testament? How many in the New Testament?

66. OT—39. NT—27.

2. The first five books of the Bible are referred to in several ways. Name one. For 1,000 bonus points, name a second one.

Torah, the Law, the Pentateuch, Book of Moses

3. King David committed a great sin and made it worse by another great sin. What did he do?

Adultery --- murder

4. Who was the prophet who confronted David about all of this? For 100,000 bonus points, name 2 other prophets.

Nathan

5. What book of the Bible can you go to read about the story of Abraham? For 10,000 bonus points, what chapters in that book make up the 'Abraham narrative'?

Genesis 12-25

6. Who is credited with writing most of the New Testament?

Paul (credited with 13 books, maybe 9)

7. The only place you can go to read the parable of the Prodigal Son is...

Luke 15:11-32

8. There are four Gospels in the Bible. Name them.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

9. Two of the Gospels have the "Christmas story" - the narrative of the birth of Christ. Which ones are they?

Matthew, Luke

10. What does the word 'gospel' mean?

Good News

11. On the night that the Israelites were released from captivity/slavery in Egypt, God would send the final plague. What was that plague?

Death of the first born

12. What did the Israelites call this event from that day forward?

The Passover

13. The Kingdom of Israel consolidated and grew under King David and King Solomon. But under Solomon's son, the Kingdom split and became divided. What was the King's name who could have prevented this, but chose not to?

King Rehoboam

14. After the period of the Judges, the people wanted a King. Who was the prophet who tried to warn them that this was not good for them?

Samuel

15. Put these people in order of birth: Jacob, Jesus, Isaac, Abraham, Adam, David, Moses

1. Adam

2. Abraham

3. Isaac

4. Jacob

5. Moses

6. David

7. Jesus

16. Where can you read about the encounter that Saul has with Jesus on the road to Damascus? Be as specific as possible.

Acts 9

17. Saul of Tarsus gets his name changed. What becomes his new name? For one million bonus points: Jacob (Abraham's grandson) also gets a name change. What becomes Jacob's new name?

Paul. Israel.

Video (22 mins.)

**Brian goes over answers to quiz.*

What is the Bible?

- Bible = “Biblia” Greek for “little books”
- Written over a period of 1,500 years.
- Originally this was an oral tradition, not written!
- Original writings were primarily in Hebrew for OT and Greek for NT.
- Written by men and transcribed by men, inspired by God and “Canonized” over time.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

- > **The Bible is our authority on matters of faith and the practice of faith.**

Where did it come from?

How the Bible that you have come to be is a long process. It's messy and unclear as to the details and the timing. We know little and assume much.

The Canonization process

- Canon: Sacred Text.
 - Literally means “ruler” or “measuring stick”. It is the standard.
- Canonization of OT was different from NT.
- The Law and the Prophets were clearly established by the time of Christ, but other books we're not sure about.

- Apocrypha. The early Christian church (We started as one church!) accepted some writings that were not part of the Hebrew Bible. These 12 books are called the Apocrypha, and are still part of the Catholic Bible.
- When NT writers talk about Scripture, they're referring to the Old Testament.
- The New Testament was still being written 100+ years after Christ.
- The original intent of NT writers was not to become a part of the sacred text. They didn't think or intend to be a part of Holy Scripture.
- *The Canonization process worked from the people up, not the other way around!*
- 3 Criteria for a New Testament Book to be considered for Canon:
 1. Apostolic Origin: Written by a direct disciple of Jesus or one generation removed
 2. Theological Consistence: Mention God
 3. Liturgical Acceptance: Already be used by the community and considered sacred.
- Council of Jamnia in A.D. 90
John 9:22
Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran in 1947
- Athanasias's Easter letter of A.D. 367
- 3rd Council of Carthage in A.D. 397

Which Bible is the REAL Bible?

Look it up (5 mins.): Matthew 18:11, Mark 16:9-20, John 8

Video (5 mins.)

- 1) Shortest
- 2) Oldest
- 3) Simplest

Translations

Why I (mostly) use the New International Version (NIV)

<5 minute break>

Video (11 mins.)

Reference and Study Tools

- Study Bible
- Commentary
 - The IVP Bible Background Commentary
 - William Barclay
 - The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary
 - Interpretation
- Handbook—The Holman Bible Handbook
- Concordance
 - Biblegateway.com

Structure of the Bible

Old Testament (Covenant) - with the Jewish people

New Testament (Covenant) - with Christians and the Church

Old Testament Structure

Law-Torah-Pentateuch-Books of Moses

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Prophets

Joshua
Judges
1 & 2 Samuel
1 & 2 Kings

} Former Prophets

Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel
Hosea Joel Amos
Obadiah Jonah Micah
Nahum Habakkuk
Zephaniah Haggai
Zechariah Malachi

} Latter Prophets

The Writings

Psalms Job Proverbs
Ruth Song of Solomon
Ecclesiastes Lamentations
Esther Daniel Ezra
Nehemiah 1 & 2 Chronicles

Poetry/Wisdom

Psalms
Job
Proverbs
Song of Solomon
Ecclesiastes

New Testament Structure

Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

History

Acts

General Letters

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

Epistles (Letters) of Paul

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians

Prophecy

Revelation

Genre—type or intent of writing

- helps determine how to read to the text
- in the Bible: Narrative/historical, prayers, ritual, civil legislation, apocalyptic, poetry, philosophical contemplation, letter

Practice (10 mins.)

- > Leaders, assign the following Scriptures to groups of 2-4 (depending on size). Have them read their Scripture(s) and answer the questions.

1 Samuel 3:1-14

Psalm 46

Ezekiel 39:21-29

Proverbs 19:15-29

Luke 8:22-25

1 Cor 11:27-33

Revelation 8:1-13

Questions:

- > What kind (genre) of Scripture is this?
- > What do you think its purpose is?
- > Can you think of some way(s) it may be applicable to your life?

Video (4 mins.)

How to Read and Study the Bible *Wouldn't you like to know!?*

3 Scriptural Contexts:

1. The world **behind** the text.

2. The world **in** the text.

3. The world **in front of** the text.

Next Step—BELIEVE: Beliefs 101

Suggestions for Further Development

Books to read:

- > 30 Days to Understanding the Bible by Max Anders

Studies to do:

- > BibleX.com