



BELIEVE: Bible 101  
Introduction to the Bible

Participant's Guide

# Bible Pop Quiz

1. How many books are there in the Bible? How many are in the Old Testament? How many in the New Testament?
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.
3. King David committed a great sin and made it worse by another great sin. What did he do?
4. Who was the prophet who confronted David about all of this? For 100,000 bonus points, name 2 other prophets.
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'?
6. Who is credited with writing most of the New Testament?
7. The only place you can go to read the parable of the Prodigal Son is...
8. There are four Gospels in the Bible. Name them.
9. Two of the Gospels have the "Christmas story" - the narrative of the birth of Christ. Which ones are they?
10. Generically, what does the word 'gospel' mean?
11. On the night that the Israelites were released from captivity/slavery in Egypt, God would send the final plague. What was that plague?

12. What did the Israelites call this event from that day forward?
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?
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?
15. Put these people in order of birth: Jacob, Jesus, Isaac, Abraham, Adam, David, Moses
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
16. Where can you read about the encounter that Saul has with Jesus on the road to Damascus? Be as specific as possible.
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?

# What is the Bible?

- Bible = “Biblia” Greek for “\_\_\_\_\_”
- Written over a period of \_\_\_\_\_years.
- Originally this was an \_\_\_\_\_tradition, not written!
- Original writings were primarily in \_\_\_\_\_for OT and \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and the practice of \_\_\_\_\_.**

## 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:\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 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 \_\_\_\_\_.
- The New Testament was still being written \_\_\_\_\_ 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.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- Council of Jamnia in A.D. 90
- Athanasias' Easter letter of A. D. 367
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Council of Carthage in A. D. 397

## Which Bible is the REAL Bible?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

# Translations

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

<5 minute break>

## Reference and Study Tools

- Commentary
  - William Barclay
  - The IVP Bible Background Commentary
  - The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary
  - Interpretation
- Study Bible
- 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

## Practice

- > 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?

## 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