

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

by Guy Prentiss Waters

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. What difference does it make how we view the Bible as compared to other books? (5-7)
2. List some of the reasons God gave us the Bible. After you have your list, try ranking them in order of importance. (5-7)
3. Keeping in mind we are talking about the Bible, how would you define the word “revelation?” (8-13)
4. Among Paul’s last words to us in 2 Timothy 3:15, he tells us, “All Scripture is inspired by God.” What does he mean by “inspired?” (13-18)
5. The church teaches the Bible is inerrant. What does that mean? (19-25)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

Hopefully now, if not before, you understand the Bible is God's revelation of Himself to us so we might know Him and what He expects from us. The church in America today has a very low view of Scripture and many, if not most, Christians don't know much of the Bible. The world, your flesh, and the devil are constantly at work to keep you from reading God's Word. It is up to you to make a decision. Do you really believe this is the most important book ever written? If so, how much time are you spending getting to know it? Make a plan, right now, to change that. If you are not in the habit of reading the Bible at all, then make a decision, asking the Holy Spirit to enable you to keep your promise (knowing the enemy will always be working to stop you) to read and think through just **one chapter** of the Bible each day. That is not an impossible start, is it? If you don't know where to start, begin with the Gospel of Luke, for Luke reveals Jesus to us. The goal of the Christian life is for us to be like Him, so we need to get to know Him. Write down everything Luke teaches about Jesus and what He tells us to do, and then prayerfully work on ways you can begin to do it.

For Further Study

Scripture Alone: The Evangelical Doctrine, R.C. Sproul. P&R, 2013.

A Book Like No Other: What's So Special About the Bible, Carol Ruvolo. P&R, 2009.

Did God Really Say? Affirming the Truthfulness and Trustworthiness of Scripture, David Garner, ed. P&R, 2012.

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