

Week 1 | Bible

What's so special about the Bible?

We start our journey focusing on B_____ (the study of the Bible). It's the perfect place to start because all of our core beliefs are _____ in what we believe the Bible says.

In this first week we will be answering the question: *"What's so special about the Bible?"* And the answer is... It's _____ by _____!

Each book was written by a h_____ a_____, but it was done through the l_____ of God. More specifically, through the H_____.

Charles Ryrie in his book "A Survey of Bible Doctrine" states the following about Inspiration: *"God's superintendence of the human authors of Scripture so that using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs."*

Definition of Inspiration...

God revealed His words to us through human authors using their p_____ while still ensuring that they were His p_____ for us.

This is why we see different types of books written in different types of styles. Ecclesiastes (written by King Solomon) and Romans (written by the Apostle Paul) are both from God but we see the difference in style based on different authors.

There are three “I”’s that make God’s Word special and above all other religious writings. #1 The Bible is I _____.
#2 The Bible is I _____. #3 The Bible is I _____.
Over the next three weeks we are going to look at each of these three important “I”’s.

The Apostle Paul confirms the inspiration of Scripture in 2 Timothy 3:16-17... *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

The Apostle Peter also confirms that the Bible is inspired by God in 2 Peter 1:20-21... *"...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

And most importantly, _____ believed that the Scriptures were truly the inspired Word of God. He quoted the Old Testament _____ times from _____ different Old Testament books.

In Matthew 5:17-18, Jesus says... *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."*



Whole Group Discussion

What would you say to a person who says that they believe only the words and actions of Jesus are to be followed today (as opposed, let’s say, to the Apostle Paul)?

Why is the inspiration of Scripture so foundational to our Christian faith? What confidence should it produce in our studying of God’s Word?

According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what can God’s inspired Word produce in our lives? Explain the progression you see in these verses.

Why is God's Word so special? It's inspired by God. God wrote a book, it's called the Bible! Another reason the Bible is special is because it's U_____.

Think about this...

The books of the Bible, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, were written by ____ different authors (with vastly different personalities, occupations, and cultures), on __ different continents, over a period of _____ years. And yet there is consistency from beginning to end, and everything in between.

Did you know that the Bible has been read by more people in more languages than any other book in history? It's been translated completely in _____ languages and portions of it in another _____ languages. It's p_____ in its circulation.

And the Word of God has s_____ . Since it's from God, it's unique to any other religious writing out there.

Hebrews 4:12-13 puts it this way: *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."*

What other book in the world can do that? That's the power, that's the uniqueness of God's Holy Word, the Bible. What's so special about the Bible? So many things. More than we have time to discuss. But two of them is that the Bible is INSPIRED by God and that the Bible is UNIQUE, above and beyond any other writings that have ever existed.



Small Group Discussion

Read Psalm 1. According to this psalm, what are some reasons the Word of God is so important to our lives?

Read Psalm 19:7-11. Discuss the significance of the descriptions given for the Bible and the benefits of the Bible.

Which description and/or benefit from Psalm 19 encouraged or challenged you the most? Why?



Prayer Focus

In what ways are you struggling to either trust or obey the Bible? Take time praying that God would help you believe and obey in a fresh new way this week.