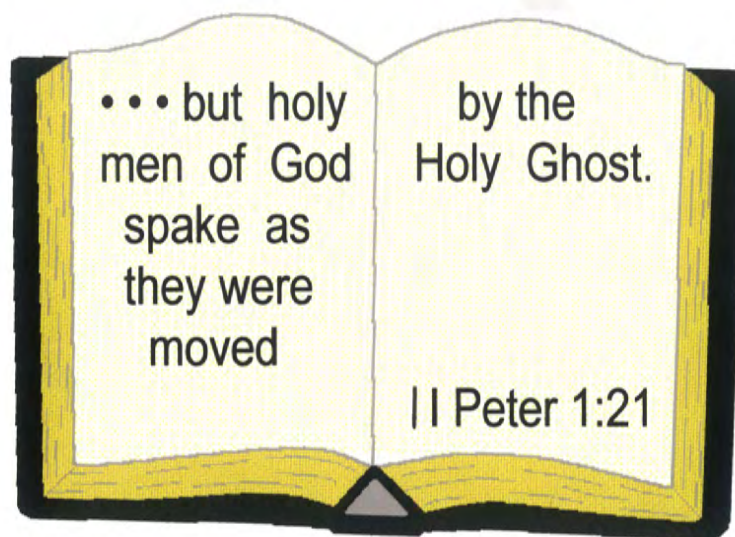


The Bible ... God's Word

Vacation

Bible

School



A series of lessons for **T**eens

The Bible ■ ■ ■ God's Word

A series of five lessons
designed for

Vacation Bible School

for

TEENS

By: Betty Penn

Lessons 1, 2, and 3 or Lessons 1,4,and 5 may also be used for a three day or night series of Camp lessons.



4311 Peeler Bend Road ♦ Benton, AR 72019 ♦ (501)776-1939

Note to the teacher

Included in this notebook is a five-day series of lessons:

- Lesson 1: What Is the Bible?
- Lesson 2: What Is the Old Testament?
- Lesson 3: What Is the New Testament?
- Lesson 4: What Is the Church?
- Lesson 5: Who Was John the Baptist?

The lessons produced in three-ring binder format for convenience in removing pages for copying.

Worksheets are reproducible for classroom use only.

Since the worksheets are black and white rather than color, I suggest you use different colors of copy paper for each worksheet for variety.

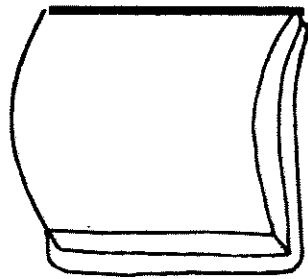
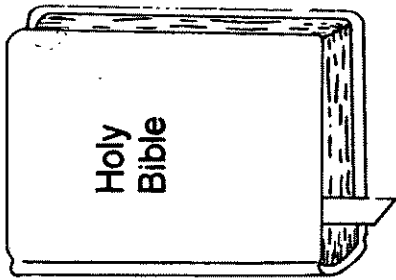
Lessons 1, 2 and 3, or Lessons 1, 4 and 5 are also compatible for three-day Camp Lessons.

May God bless the use of these lessons as they are used to teach young people the truths of God's Word.

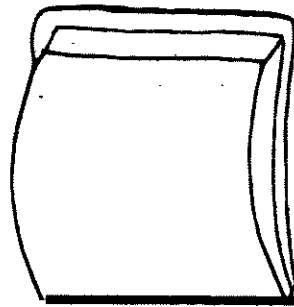
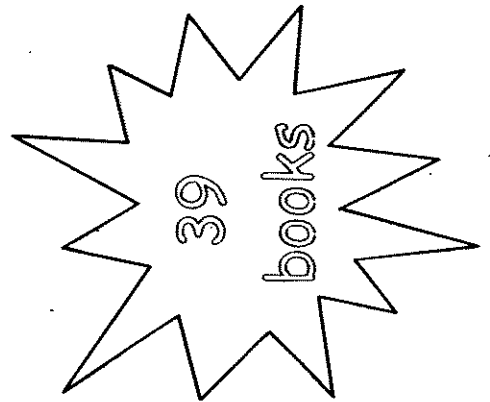

Betty Penn

THE BIBLE

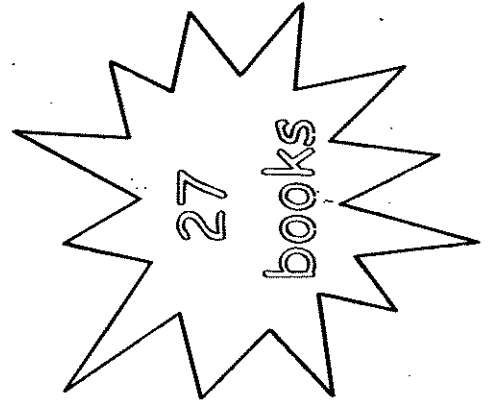
GOD'S WORD



Old
Testament



New
Testament



Lesson 1: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Scriptures: II Timothy 3:16-17 II Peter 1:21 Revelation 1:9-11
Hebrews 1:1-2 Acts 1:16 I Corinthians 2:13

Aim: To learn why we have the written Word of God, and why we need to know what it teaches.

MEMORY VERSE: II Timothy 3:16-17

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

In our lesson today we want to learn about the Bible. When we are asked, "What is the Bible?", we say, "It is God's Word". What do we mean by God's Word? The Bible is the message that God has given to man, so that we may know about God. The Bible tells us all we need to know about God to believe in Him. It tells us all we need to know about Jesus to believe in Him. The Bible tells us how the world began, and why there is a sun in the sky, and a moon and stars at night. It tells us where we came from, and what will happen after we die. It tells us why we are sinful, and how Jesus came into the world to forgive our sins, so that when we die, we can go to be in the presence of God. It tells us of a wonderful place called heaven, where there will not be any sin, or sickness, or anything harmful. It tells us of God's love for us. It tells us how we should live our lives. The Bible is the most important book in the world.

II Timothy 3:16 tells us that the Bible was inspired by God. What do we mean by inspiration? We mean that God caused the men who wrote the Bible to know exactly what to write so that there would not be any errors. II Peter 1:21 tells us that men wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit filled the minds of the men so that what they wrote down was what God wanted us to know.

Over-all view of the Bible:

The Bible is divided into two groups: the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**. The Bible is like a library. It has many books, but because of modern printing, we can have all of them bound into one 'book'. The Bible is made up of **sixty-six** books. The **Old Testament** has **thirty-nine** books in it, and the **New Testament** has **twenty-seven** books in it. All of them agree with one another. The Bible was written by about **forty different men** over a period of about **sixteen hundred years**. The prophets were men to whom God revealed things that would happen. In the Old Testament the prophets told of things that would happen in the future that only God could have told them about. The New Testament tells us about things that happened exactly as the prophets said. There is no conflict between the writings of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The beginning of all things:

The book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible. The word **genesis** means **beginning**. Genesis tells us of the **beginnings** of all things. **Genesis 1:1** tells us, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*" It tells of the beginning of the sun to rule the day, the beginning of the moon and stars in the sky to shine at night, the beginning of all things that grow on the earth. God created the plants and made them with seeds that fall to the ground so that new plants can grow from them, and things will keep on growing. Genesis tells us of the beginning of animals on the earth, fish in the sea, and birds that fly in the sky. Then it tells of His greatest creation, the beginning of man. Adam and Eve were the first two people who lived on the earth. Genesis tells of the first disobedience and the beginning of sin in the human race. It tells of the first promise of a Redeemer, or Savior. God created Adam and Eve perfect, but they disobeyed God and sinned. This caused them to be imperfect, and separated from God, so He promised them a Savior.

God's communication with man:

In the beginning man did not have a Bible, or the written Word of God, so God spoke directly to man or sent angels from heaven to bring messages to man. Later God chose prophets to bring His messages to man. God came in the cool of the day and talked with Adam and Eve. God spoke directly to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden when He promised to send His Son into the world to die for their sins. The prophets in the Old Testament prophesied of the coming of the Son of God. They told where he would be born, and why he would be born. In the New Testament the writers told of the birth of Jesus, and it was exactly as the prophets of old had prophesied. Everything in the Bible agrees. There were forty different men who wrote the Bible, but everything they said agrees with the others.

The writing of the Bible:

The Bible was not written all at one time. It came about slowly. Adam was created about four thousand years before Jesus was born. Adam did not write down the things that happened in the book of Genesis. It was not until the time of Moses, about two thousand five hundred years after Adam was created, that the events of the lives of the early people who lived on the earth were written down. God revealed to Moses, through the Holy Spirit, all the things that He wanted us to know. Then Moses wrote down the things that happened during his lifetime. So the first of the Bible as we know it today was written on **scrolls** about fifteen hundred years before Jesus was born. The prophets and other writers added to these scrolls, and they were kept at the temple. The scribes copied these writings so that more people could have access to them. It was a full-time job of the scribes to copy the scriptures. The leading men in the Jewish religion assembled these writings, and decided which should be included in what we know as the **Old Testament**. There were writings of the prophets that were not considered to be inspired writings, so these were not included. Credit is given to the prophet Ezra, along with the most intelligent men of his time, for making a final decision of the writings considered to be the sacred writings before the birth of Jesus. After the time of Ezra, no other books were added, and none were taken away from the ones he had assembled. Before the birth of Jesus,

time was counted B.C., backward from near the year of His birth to the creation, which covered about four thousand years. After the birth of Jesus, we count time forward as A.D. (anno-domini), which means “the year of our Lord”. So we live about two thousand after the time of Jesus’ birth.

The first book of the New Testament was written about **thirty-eight** years after Jesus was born. It was the book of Matthew, and it tells about His birth, His life, and His death. The last book of the New Testament is the book of Revelation, and it was written about **ninety-six** years after the birth of Jesus. While the **Old Testament** took about **fifteen hundred** years to write, and covered **four thousand years** in history, the **New Testament** took only **sixty** years to write, and covered about **one hundred years** in time.

Overview:

The Old Testament tells the history of man from the beginning until God chose the nation of Israel as His special people. Then it covers the history of the Jewish nation until Jesus was born. The New Testament tells us of the birth and life of Jesus, and then it tells us about the church He organized while He was on the earth. Half of the books in the New Testament were letters that the apostle Paul wrote to churches telling them what they should believe, and how to conduct themselves as a church. This is where we get our instructions for our church today. There were other writings by good people during this time, but not all were considered to be inspired by God. They were not all written in the order in which they are found in the Bible. About three hundred years later, the faithful and intelligent men of the early church took the writings of the men who had followed Jesus, and the letters that the apostle Paul had written to churches, and assembled them into what we now know as the New Testament.

In review:

The Bible was written over a period of about **sixteen hundred years**, beginning about **fifteen hundred years before Jesus was born**, and finished about **one hundred years after his birth**. It was written by about **forty** different men, all of whom we believe to have been inspired by God. This means God caused them to be able to write everything correctly, so that there were no errors in the original writings of the Scriptures. These books considered to be inspired, were by the direction of the Holy Spirit, gathered together into one book.

The **Old Testament** was written mostly in **Hebrew**, the language of the Jewish nation. The **New Testament** was written mostly in **Greek**, the language spoken in that area of the world when Jesus was born. The Bible as we know it today is called “the King James authorized version”. King James, king of England, appointed forty-seven men who were considered to be great scholars of England to **translate** the Bible from the **Greek and Hebrew** languages into the **English** language. It took five years, and was completed in **1611 A. D.** When the early settlers came to America, they adopted English as the national language and brought with them the King James version of the Bible. There have been other translations made in recent years, but the King James version is the one used more than other versions.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Worksheet 1

This is how the scripture reference, **Luke 24:49-53** looks when it is written in Greek:

This is how **Luke 24:49-53** is written in your **English Bible**:

ΗΑΝΙΦΕΡΕΤΟΕΙΣΤΟΜΟΥΝΟΝ
 ΑΩΤΗΝΕΠΑΓΓΕΛΙ
 ΑΝΤΟΥΠΑΤΡΟΣΜΟΥ
 ΕΦΥΜΑΣΥΜΕΙΣ
 ΔΕΚΑΘΙΣΑΤΕΕΝΤΗ
 ΠΟΛΕΙΕΩΣΟΥΕΝ
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 ΔΥΝΑΜΙΝ
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 ΕΩΣΠΡΟΣΒΗΘΑ
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 ΥΛΟΤΗΣΕΝΑΥΤΟΥ
 ΚΑΙΕΓΕΝΕΤΟΕΝ
 ΤΩΕΥΛΟΓΙΝΑΥΤΟΥ
 ΑΥΤΟΥΣΔΙΕΣΤΗ
 ΑΠΑΥΤΩΝΚΑΙΑΥ
 ΤΟΙΠΡΟΣΚΥΝΗΣΑ
 ΤΕΣΑΥΤΟΝΥΠΕΣ
 ΤΡΕΨΑΝΕΙΣΙΕΡΟΥ
 ΣΑΛΗΜΜΕΤΑΧΑ
 ΡΑΣΜΕΓΑΛΗΣΚΑΙ
 ΗΣΑΝΔΙΑΠΑΝΤΟΥ
 ΕΝΤΩΙΕΡΩΕΥΛΟ
 ΓΟΥΝΤΕΤΟΝΘΝ
 ΤΟΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΥ
 ΚΑΤΑΛΥΚΑΝ

Facsimile from Sinai MS., 4th century A.D.
The text is Luke xxiv. 49-53.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Look up these scriptures and fill in the missing words:

II Timothy 3:16

"All _____ is given by _____ of God"

II Peter 1:21

"For the prophecy came not in _____ time by the _____ of _____:
but _____ of _____ spake as they were moved by
the _____."

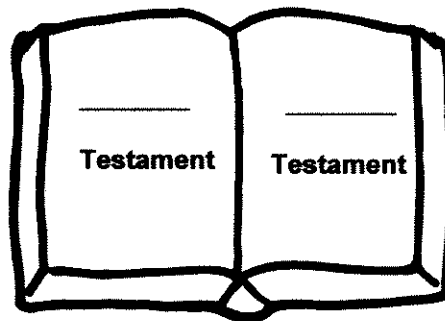
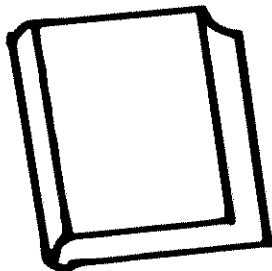
Revelation 1:11

"Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the _____ and the _____:
and, what thou seest, _____ in a _____."

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Worksheet 2

1. The Bible has two parts: the _____
and the _____
2. There are _____ books in the Bible.
3. There are _____ books in the Old Testament.
4. There are _____ books in the New Testament.
5. About _____ men wrote the Bible.
6. It took about _____ years to write the Bible.
7. The apostle _____ wrote about half of the books in the New Testament.
8. _____ wrote the book of Genesis.
9. The first book in the Bible is _____.
10. The last book in the Bible is _____.
11. King _____ had the Bible translated into the English language.
12. Our English Bible was translated in what year? _____
13. The Old Testament was written in the _____ language.
14. The New Testament was written in the _____ language.



God's Word - the Bible

_____ books

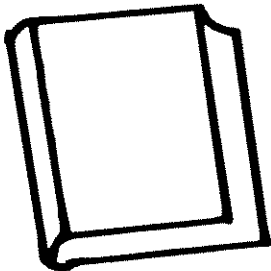
_____ books

_____ books

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

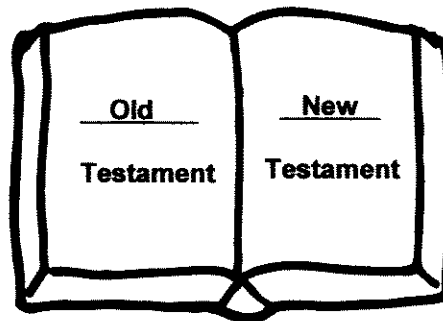
Worksheet 2 Answers

1. The Bible has two parts: the Old Testament
and the New Testament
2. There are 66 books in the Bible.
3. There are 39 books in the Old Testament.
4. There are 27 books in the New Testament.
5. About 40 men wrote the Bible.
6. It took about 1,600 years to write the Bible.
7. The apostle Paul wrote about half of the books in the New Testament.
8. Moses wrote the book of Genesis.
9. The first book in the Bible is Genesis.
10. The last book in the Bible is Revelation.
11. King James had the Bible translated into the English language.
12. Our English Bible was translated in what year? 1611 A. D.
13. The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language.
14. The New Testament was written in the Greek language.



God's Word - the Bible

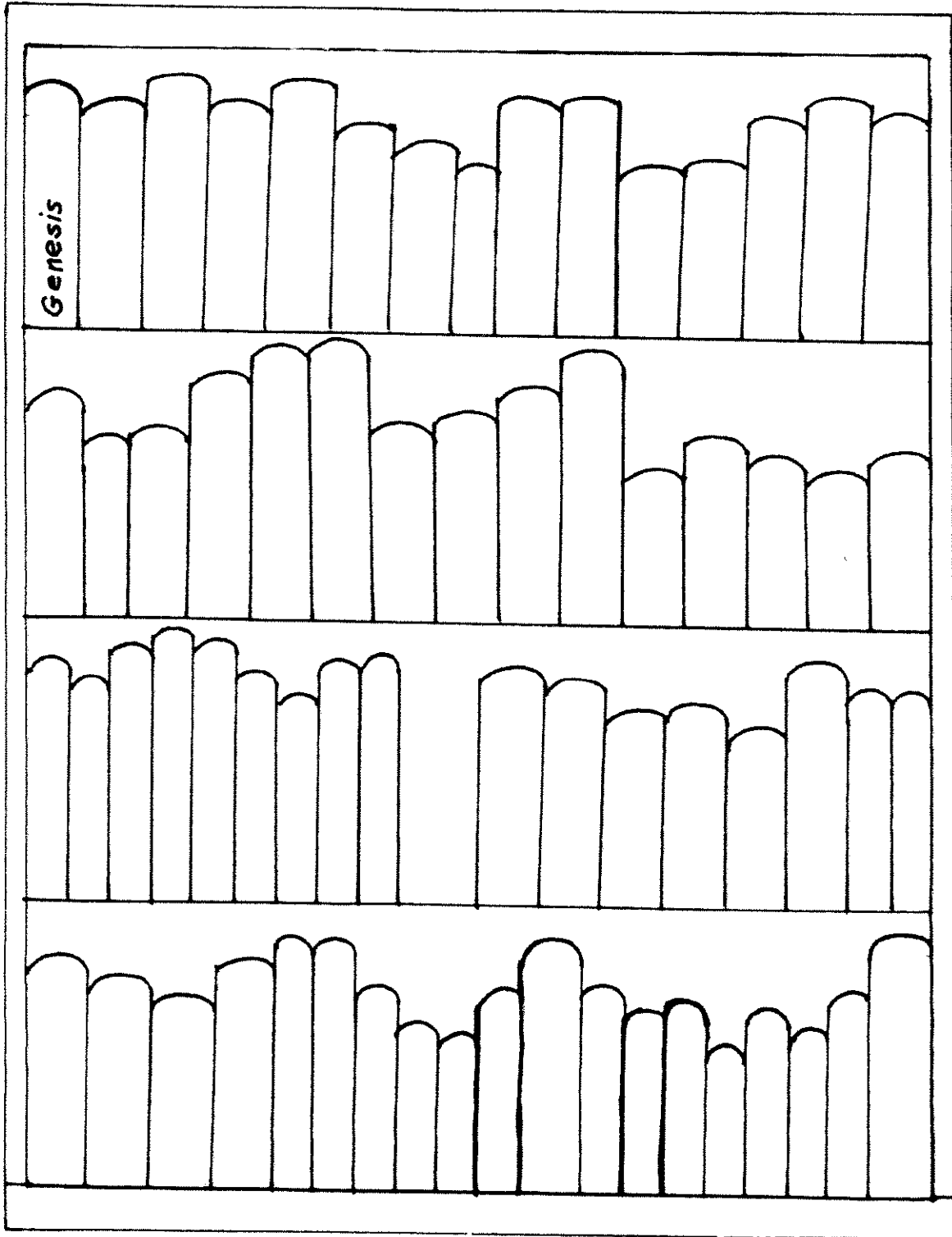
66 books



39 books 27 books

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is a library of 66 books. Write the names of the books of the Bible.



Lesson 2: WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Scriptures: II Peter 1:21 Deuteronomy 17:18-20; 31:9 I Samuel 10:25

Aim: To present an over-all view of the Old Testament

MEMORY VERSE: II Peter 1:21

“For 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.”

The Bible is God’s Word - - - all of it. It was inspired by God and written by men. God caused men to know exactly what to write so there would be no errors. It was not written all at one time. It took about **sixteen hundred years**, and was written by about **forty** different men. Yet everything written during the last sixty years agrees with what was written by men who lived hundreds of years before.

Overview

The Bible has two parts: the **Old Testament**, and the **New Testament**. Today we will study about the Old Testament. It is made up of **thirty-nine** books. We call them the Jewish scriptures or the Jewish manuscripts. They were written by Jewish people, mostly in the **Hebrew** language because that is the language the people spoke. The Old Testament covers about twenty-five hundred years after Adam and Eve were created. By this time God had chosen the descendants of Abraham to be His special people, and they spoke the Hebrew language.

The scriptures were written on **scrolls**, and the originals were kept at the tabernacle and then at the temple by the priests. The scribes were men who served at the temple by copying the scrolls. They did not have computers, or typewriters, or the modern printing press, so all the copying was done by hand. It was very slow, so there were many men who served as scribes. The scribes knew the scriptures better than anyone, because they spent hours and hours copying them by hand. They kept the originals at the temple so they could protect them, and the copies were used by the people. They were commanded to copy the laws and teach them to their children. Joshua erected a monument of stones and copied the laws God gave to Moses on the stones; then they were read to the people, including women and children: **Joshua 8:32**. When God told Moses that some day He would allow the Israelites to have a king, He commanded the king to copy the law in a book, from the writings in the scrolls which the Levites (the priests) kept. He was to keep it with him and read from it every day, so he would learn how to serve God and know what His commandments were: **Deuteronomy 17:18-20**.

There are **thirty-nine** books in the **Old Testament**. The first book was written about fifteen hundred years before Jesus was born. The last book was written about four hundred years before Jesus was born. Before the time of Jesus, time is counted backward. So from 1500 to 400 B.C. was

about **eleven hundred years** that it took for all of the Old Testament to be written. There were many more writings by good men, but only the thirty-nine books were determined to be inspired books, so they make up the Old Testament.

Books of Moses

Moses wrote the **first five** books, and we call them the **books of law**. God revealed to Moses all the things that happened during the first **twenty-five hundred** years that people lived on the earth, and Moses wrote it down just as God wanted him to. The **first book** is the book of **Genesis**. It covers the creation of all things, and tells us about the people from Adam and Eve to Noah, when the flood destroyed all the people except Noah's family, because of their disobedience to God. Many years later the people were once again so sinful God decided to raise up a new nation of people to be His special people, and teach them how to worship and serve Him. This new nation was the descendants of one man, Abraham. The book of Genesis ends with the story of Joseph, when the descendants of Abraham, called the Jewish people, or Hebrews, had gone to Egypt to live because a famine struck the land, and there was food available in Egypt.

The second book, **Exodus**, tells about the Jewish people from the time of Moses, when they left Egypt to go back to the land God had chosen for them. These events happened during Moses' life, so he wrote down everything exactly as it happened. God told him all the laws to write down, and he wrote them in the book of **Leviticus**. The books of **Numbers** and **Deuteronomy** also tell about the nation of Israel and how God blessed them when they worshiped Him, and how He punished them when they disobeyed. These four books, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, cover less than **two hundred years**, and were written to and for the Jewish people. Very important information is recorded in these books.

Books of History

The next **twelve** books in the Old Testament are called the books of **history**. They were written by eight or more men. They tell us the history of the nation of Israel. They tell about their judges and their kings, and the building of the temple by Solomon. They teach us the history of the nation of Israel from Joshua to about four hundred and fifty years before Jesus was born. They are the books of **Joshua through Esther**.

Poetry and Songs

There is also poetry in the Bible. The next **five** books, **Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes**, and **Song of Solomon**, are called books of **poetry**. **Moses** wrote the Book of **Job** before he wrote the book of Leviticus. It was probably the third book written, but it is the eighteenth book in the Old Testament. **David** wrote most of the **Psalms** about one thousand years before Jesus was born. The book of Psalms is a collection of **songs**, or **hymns**, of praise or worship. They were used in the religious ceremonies, and chanted to the accompaniment of stringed instruments. They were an integral part of Hebrew worship. **Solomon** was the wisest man who ever lived, and he wrote most of the **Proverbs**, which are wise sayings. He also wrote **Ecclesiastes** and **Song of Solomon**.

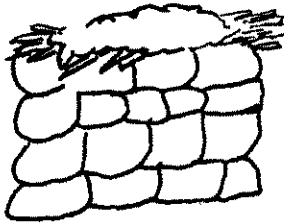
Books of Prophecy

All of the remaining books in the Old Testament are books of **prophecy** and cover about **four hundred and sixty-five years**. The first **five** books are called **major** prophets because they prophesied more and greater things than the rest. The last **twelve** books are called **minor** prophets. Some of them are very short. **Joel** and **Haggai** have only **two** chapters. **Obadiah** has only **one** chapter. **Nahum** and **Habakkuk** have **three** chapters. **Malachi** is the **last** book in the Old Testament. There are no writings for the last four hundred years before Jesus was born.

Old Testament Worship

In the Old Testament, mankind first worshiped God at an **altar** they built out of stones, on which they offered **animal sacrifices** to show they believed God would send His Son as a sacrifice for all men. Each man was the priest for his family. God spoke directly with Adam, and told him how to worship. He spoke directly with Noah. He called Abraham and promised to make of his descendants a new, or separate, nation from the rest of the world. When God chose the nation of Israel as His special people, He called **Moses** to be their leader, and bring them out of Egyptian bondage into the land of Canaan. He told them to build the **tabernacle** for worship while they were traveling in the wilderness. God chose one man, **Aaron**, to be a **high priest**, and He also chose one of the tribes of Israel, the **tribe of Levy**, to be **priests**. No longer did the men offer the sacrifices for their families, but the priests offered the sacrifices for the people at the tabernacle. Later the people worshiped at the **temple**, using the same form of worship (priests and sacrifices) until the birth of Jesus. Jesus started the **church** as we know it today, and His crucifixion did away with animal sacrifices at the temple. Today we worship as we believe the early church did, by gathering, praying, singing, and hearing the Word of God read and explained.

WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?

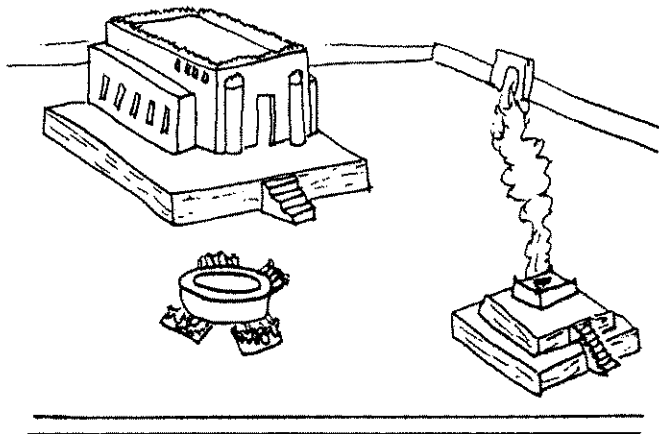
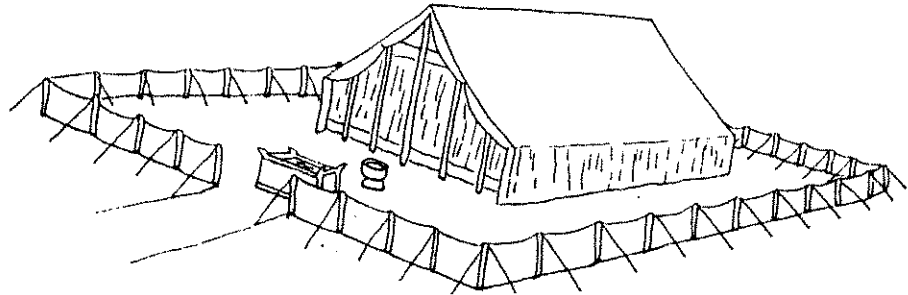


When God first created people, He spoke directly to man and instructed them how to worship.

In the beginning, and until the time of Moses, man worshiped at an altar.

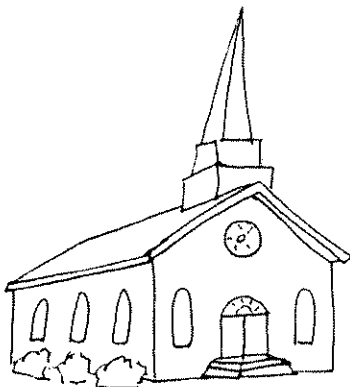
Every man was a priest unto his own family.

When God chose the nation of Israel as His special people, He instructed Moses to build a tabernacle. Men from the tribe of Levi were the priests, and offered sacrifices for the people.



David desired to have a house of worship for the Lord. He assembled the necessary materials, and when his son, Solomon, became king of Israel he built the temple.

The Israelites worshiped God at the temple. The high priest went into the Holy of Holies once a year to offer the blood atonement for the sins of the people.



When Jesus was crucified, the purpose of blood sacrifices was fulfilled.

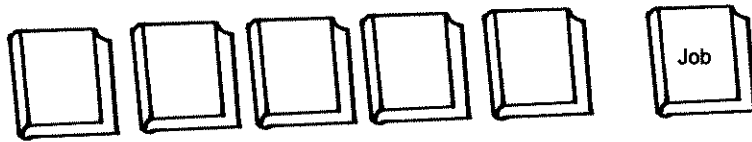
The people were no longer to make animal sacrifices.

Jesus organized the church and purchased it with his own blood.

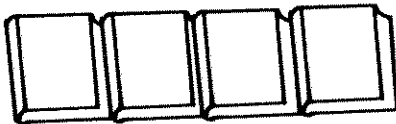
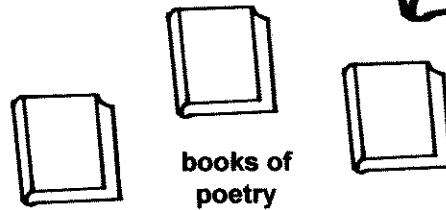
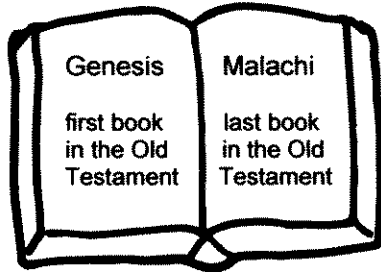
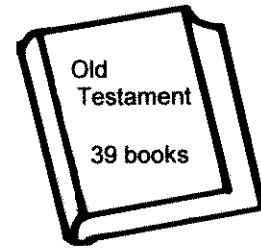
We worship God today as a church.

What Is the Old Testament?

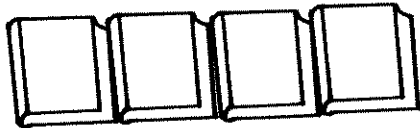
Worksheet 2



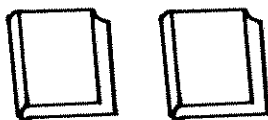
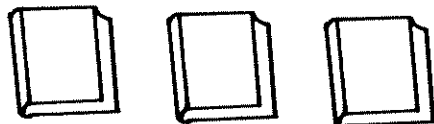
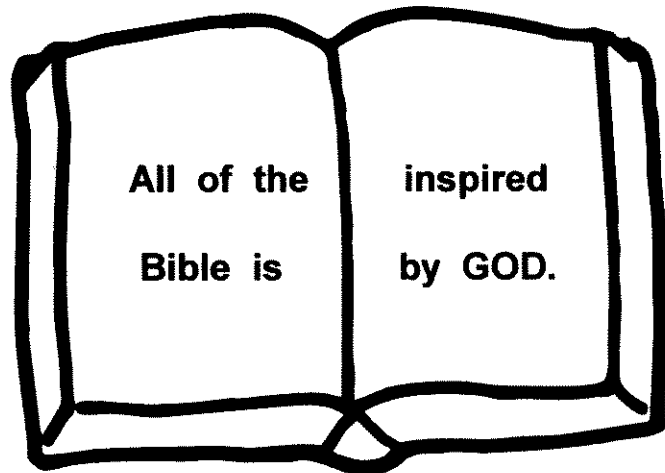
The 5 books of law and the book of Job were written by Moses.



BOOKS OF



HISTORY



major prophets



minor prophets

1. How many books are in the Old Testament? _____
 2. What is the first book in the Bible? _____
 3. Including the book of Job, how many books did Moses write? _____
 4. The first **5** books are called the books of _____.
 5. The next **12** books are called the books of _____.
 6. The next **5** books are called the books of _____.
 7. All the remaining books are books of _____.
 8. The first 5 books of prophecy are called the _____ prophets.
 9. The last 12 books in the Old Testament are called the _____ prophets.
 10. What is the last book in the Old Testament? _____
-

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. In the beginning, every man was a _____ for his own family.
2. When Moses was the leader of Israel, God told him to build a _____.
3. Men from the tribe of Levi were the _____.
4. Solomon built the _____.
5. First, the people worshiped at a family _____.
6. Second, the people worshiped at the _____.
7. Third, the people worshiped at the _____.
8. Today, we worship God as a _____.

9. How many books are in the Old Testament? 39
 10. What is the first book in the Bible? Genesis
 11. Including the book of Job, how many books did Moses write? 6
 12. The first 5 books are called the books of law.
 13. The next 12 books are called the books of history.
 14. The next 5 books are called the books of poetry.
 15. All the remaining books are books of prophecy.
 16. The first 5 books of prophecy are called the major prophets.
 17. The last 12 books in the Old Testament are called the minor prophets.
 18. What is the last book in the Old Testament? Malachi
-

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. In the beginning, every man was a priest for his own family.
2. When Moses was the leader of Israel, God told him to build a tabernacle.
3. Men from the tribe of Levi were the priests.
4. Solomon built the temple.
5. First, the people worshiped at a family altar.
6. Second, the people worshiped at the tabernacle.
7. Third, the people worshiped at the temple.
8. Today, we worship God as a church.

Unscramble the books of history, then write them in order.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-----|-------|
| I ulemaS | _____ | 1. | _____ |
| razE | _____ | 2. | _____ |
| shretE | _____ | 3. | _____ |
| Il mleuSa | _____ | 4. | _____ |
| I gisKn | _____ | 5. | _____ |
| ohsJau | _____ | 6. | _____ |
| Il rnihoeCcls | _____ | 7. | _____ |
| uthR | _____ | 8. | _____ |
| Il nKsig | _____ | 9. | _____ |
| I hiorCnslce | _____ | 10. | _____ |
| ehNhmeai | _____ | 11. | _____ |
| dugJse | _____ | 12. | _____ |

Unscramble the books of history, then write them in order.

I ulemaS	<u>I Samuel</u>	1.	<u>Joshua</u>
razE	<u>Ezra</u>	2.	<u>Judges</u>
shretE	<u>Esther</u>	3.	<u>Ruth</u>
Il mleuSa	<u>II Samuel</u>	4.	<u>I Samuel</u>
I gisKn	<u>I Kings</u>	5.	<u>II Samuel</u>
ohsJau	<u>Joshua</u>	6.	<u>I Kings</u>
Il rnihoeCcls	<u>I Chronicles</u>	7.	<u>II Kings</u>
uthR	<u>Ruth</u>	8.	<u>I Chronicles</u>
Il nKsig	<u>II Kings</u>	9.	<u>II Chronicles</u>
I hiorCnslce	<u>I Chronicles</u>	10.	<u>Ezra</u>
ehNhmeai	<u>Nehemiah</u>	11.	<u>Nehemiah</u>
dugJse	<u>Judges</u>	12.	<u>Esther</u>

WORD SEARCH

Find the names of the first 22 books of the Old Testament, forward, backward, upside down, or diagonally:

Z E F G U V S R E B M U N K E
 S R P R O V E R B S M O J G X
 U U S M V V T Q O J M V O F R
 S J A A U H S O J O F N U U L
 J Q L I Y F A L L Z P E M O E
 I P M I M E I O L F K H Z W U
 R O S K O V S I S E N E G R M
 C V U I N F E I H U H M C M A
 P J M N O K L E V I T I C U S
 F K M G R P C D X M U A W S I
 Q W N S E L C I N O R H C I I
 W O E S T H E R S K D Q H I O
 S E D G U J R O I L F U T O Q
 F L W D E N A K P R T V S G B
 M R Y H D F M H I Q X U X G N

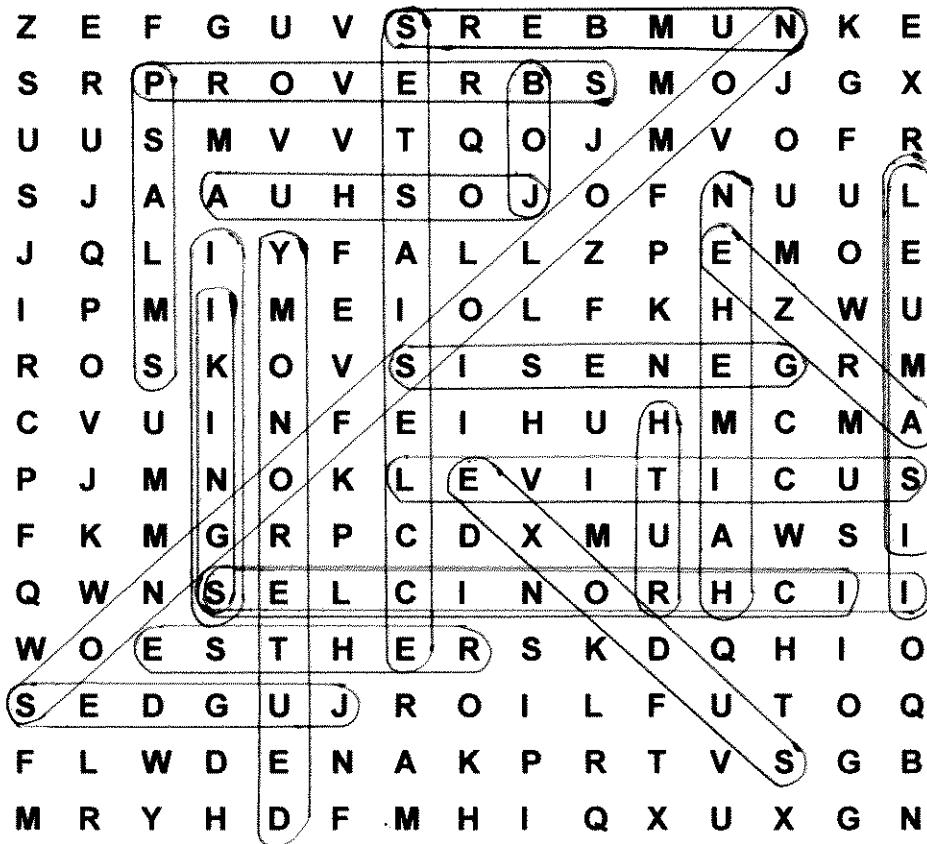
GENESIS
 EXODUS
 LEVITICUS
 NUMBERS
 DEUTERONOMY
 JOSHUA
 JUDGES

RUTH
 I SAMUEL
 II SAMUEL
 I KINGS
 II KINGS
 I CHRONICLES
 II CHRONICLES
 EZRA

NEHEMIAH
 ESTHER
 JOB
 PSALMS
 PROVERBS
 ECCLESIASTES
 SONG OF SOLOMON

WORD SEARCH

Find the names of the first 22 books of the Old Testament, forward, backward, upside down, or diagonally:



GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY
JOSHUA
JUDGES

RUTH
I SAMUEL
II SAMUEL
I KINGS
II KINGS
I CHRONICLES
II CHRONICLES
EZRA

NEHEMIAH
ESTHER
JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SOLOMON

Lesson 3: WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Scripture: II Timothy 3:16-17 Revelation 1:9-11

Aim: To acquaint the student with an over-all view of the New Testament

MEMORY VERSE: II Timothy 2:15

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Introduction

The writers of the **New Testament** were inspired of God as they wrote just as the patriarchs and the prophets of old were inspired as they wrote the books of the Old Testament. The Old Testament took much longer to write than the New Testament. It only took about **sixty** years to write the New Testament. It was written by **eight** different men. The New Testament begins with the birth of Jesus, and tells us about His life, His death, and His church. The last book, **Revelation**, was written by **John** when he was an old man. It is apparently the last book that was written. It was a **vision** that God gave to John, and God told him to write down what he saw in a book. The book of Revelation tells us things that will come to pass in the future.

Four Divisions

The **New Testament** is made up of **twenty-seven** books. When we study about the New Testament, we divide it into four parts. The first four books are called the **gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**. These four books tell us of the birth, life, and death of Jesus. All four do not tell exactly the same events, but we must study them all to get the full story of the birth and life of Jesus. When we study all of them, we learn about the life of Jesus, from the time the angel appeared to His mother, Mary, and told her Jesus would be born and would be the Son of God, to His ascension back into heaven. Each of the first four books bears the name of the man who wrote it.

The Gospels

Apparently, the first book, the book of **Matthew**, was the **first** one written. The others do not follow in the order in which they were written. The gospels tell the world that **Jesus** was the **Son of God** that was promised in the very first book in the Bible, the book of Genesis. For four thousand years people had been waiting for the coming of the Son of God to pay the price of sin. For fifteen hundred years the Jewish people had been looking for the Messiah to come. They were looking for the descendant of David, who would be their righteous king. He would put down all their enemies and give them prosperity forever. The four gospels tell us that Jesus did not come as a prince, the son of a king, born in a palace. He was born in the small town of Bethlehem, not Jerusalem. He was a descendant of King David, but would not immediately take possession of the throne and rule as king. He must first come as their Savior. The Jews were looking for a king, so they did not accept Jesus

as the Messiah. These four books in the Bible tell us that He really was God's Son, and He really was the Messiah. They tell us how the Jews rejected him, and had Him crucified because He claimed to be the Son of God. From these four books we learn how Jesus was crucified, but after three days, He arose from the dead. He stayed on the earth for forty more days, then ascended back into heaven to be with God, the Father, and prepare a place for us, so we may go to be with Him when we die.

The book of **Mark** does not tell of the birth of Jesus, but begins with the coming of John the Baptist who was sent by God to prepare the hearts of the Jewish people to receive Jesus as the Son of God. The **third** book in the New Testament is the book of **Luke**. It was written by Luke, who was a physician, and gives us the details of the birth of Jesus that are omitted in the other three gospels. **All four** of the gospels tell about the **crucifixion and resurrection** of Jesus. **Mark and Luke** end with the **ascension** of Jesus back into heaven.

The Church

The four gospels tell about the **church** that Jesus started when He was on the earth. Jesus called **twelve** men to be **apostles**, or preachers. **John the Baptist** was chosen by God to reveal to the world that this man named **Jesus, of Nazareth**, who was known as the son of Mary and a carpenter named Joseph, was really the **Son of God**, and the Messiah that the Jews had been looking for. He was named **John**, and called **the Baptist** because he **baptized**, or immersed in water those who came to him professing Jesus to be the Christ and repenting of their sins. When some of the Jews accepted the message John preached, John baptized them by immersing them in the Jordan River. Then Jesus took these people who had accepted Him, repented of their sins, and had been immersed by John, and He assembled them into the first church. The book of **Acts** tells us about this **church**, what they believed, and how they were led by the Holy Spirit. All of the Bible had not been written yet, so this church depended on the apostles who had been with Jesus for three years and heard his teachings, to teach them the things that Jesus commanded them to teach.

The Letters

The rest of the New Testament, except for the book of Revelation, is made up of **epistles**, or **letters**. Most of the epistles were written by the **apostle Paul**, and most of these were written to **churches**. When the Jews as a nation rejected Jesus, God turned to the Gentiles, or people who were not Jews, for His church. After Jesus was crucified, the people who were in the first church stayed at Jerusalem. They were persecuted, or mistreated, because they had accepted Jesus as the Son of God, and many had to leave their homes and move to other places to live. When they moved they continued to preach the truth, so more churches were started. When the apostle Paul began preaching, he traveled to many places and preached the gospel of Jesus, and organized churches. He could not stay in one place all the time, so he wrote letters to the other churches instructing them in the truth. If they had a problem, they would send for Paul, and if he could not come, he would write them a letter. We have these letters today to teach us what we should believe, and how we should conduct ourselves as a church. Paul wrote letters to the churches at **Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse, and Thessalonica**. Following the letters that Paul wrote to churches are letters he wrote to individuals, telling them how they should act, and what they should teach.

The **apostle Paul** wrote two letters to **Timothy** and a letter to **Titus**. **Philemon** is a short letter, only one chapter, written by Paul to Philemon and the Colossian church of which he was a member. Philemon was a slave owner. His slave, Onesimus, had run away to Rome and been converted under the teaching of Paul who instructed him to return to his master. Paul exhorted Philemon and the church to receive Onesimus back, not as a slave, but as a brother in Christ.

Remaining Books

The book of James was written by **James**. I and II Peter were written by **Peter**. The book of Jude was written by **Jude**, and the books of **John, I, II, and III John**, and **Revelation** were all written by John.

Purpose

When we read the New Testament we learn about Jesus. We learn what he taught the people while He lived on the earth. We learn about the miracles that He did to prove that He was the Son of God, and had power from God. We learn how to be saved. We learn why we should be baptized. We learn what we should believe as a church. We learn where Jesus is now, and what will happen to us when we die.

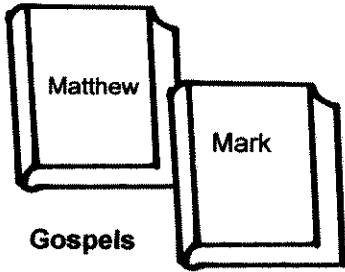
The Bible tells us that, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

The Bible is all we need for our doctrines (the things we believe). It is all we need to correct us when we do wrong. It is all we need to instruct us in the ways of righteousness, and if we believe and follow its teachings, we will know everything we need to know to make our lives pleasing in the sight of God. If we don't, it is because we do not study and try to know.

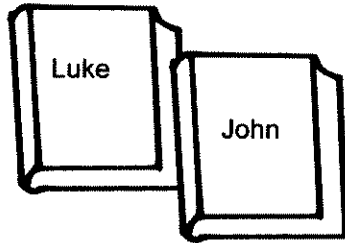
“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

The Bible is the most important book in the world. It is the one that we should love above all other books. It is God's Word written to us. It is the message from God to men. God does not need angels to tell His message anymore; He has written the Bible. More than anything else, the Bible tells us of the wonderful love that God has for us.

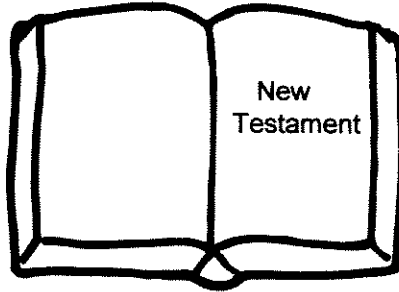
Bible



Gospels



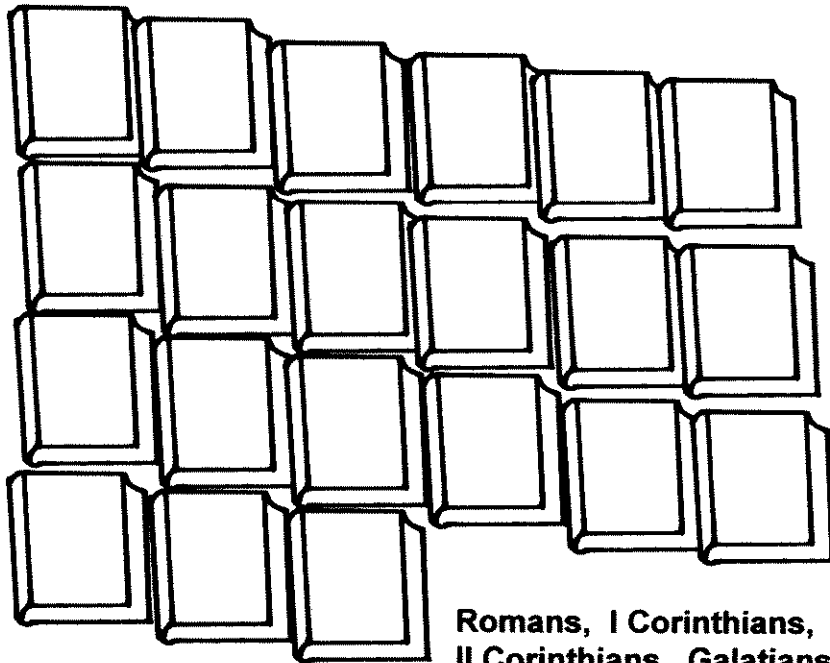
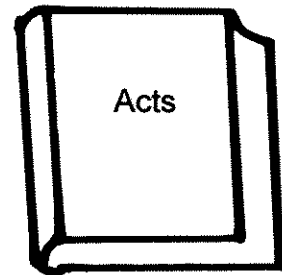
Epistles (letters)



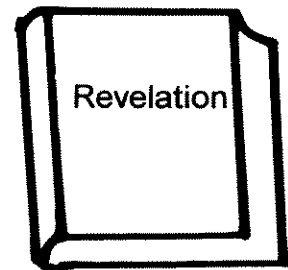
Book of books

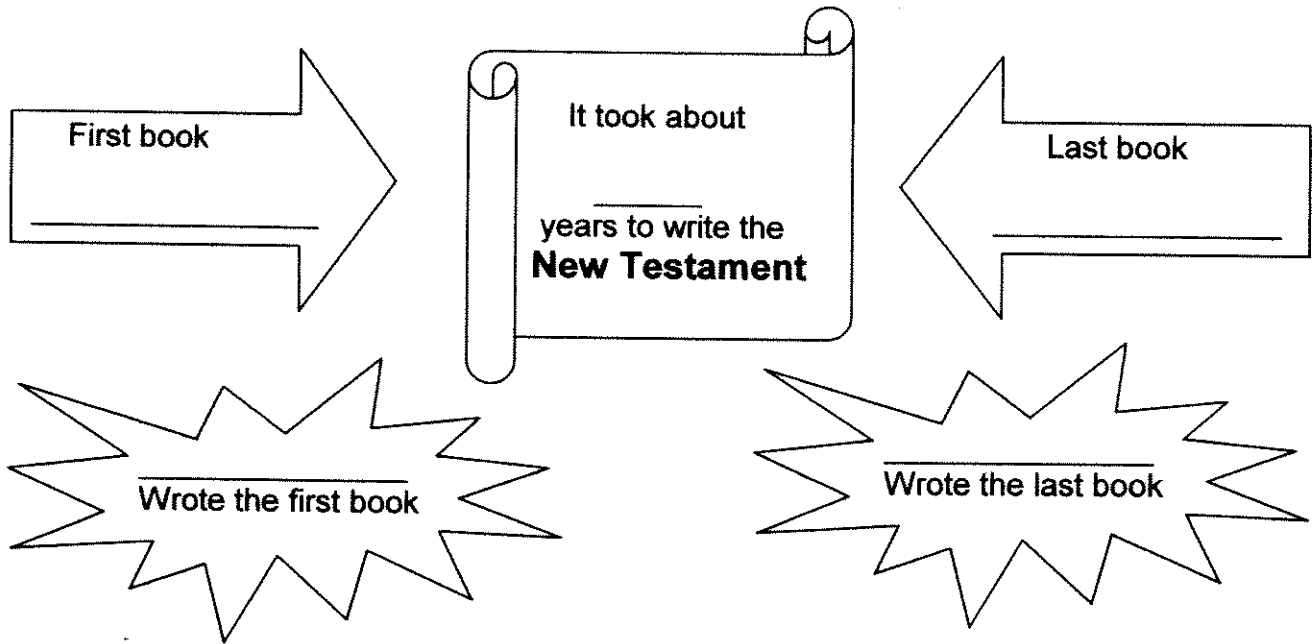
New Testament
(new covenant)

27 books



Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, Jude





The first 4 books are called _____

List them:

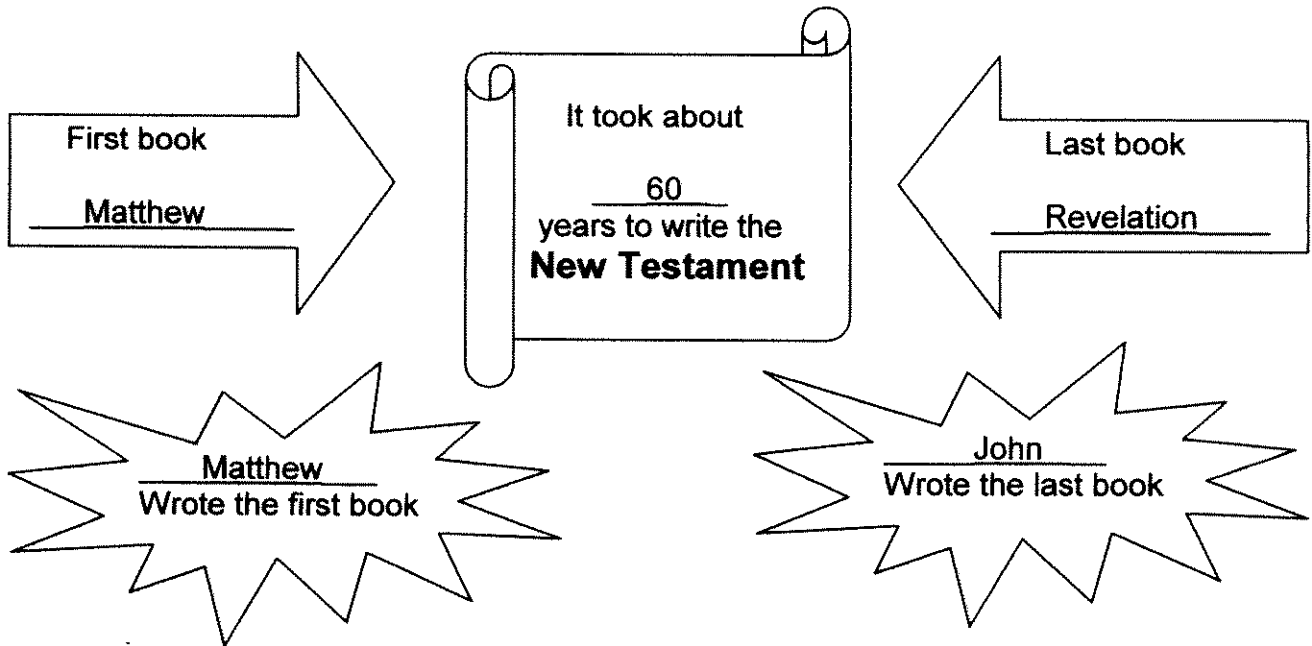
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The book of _____ is the **history** of the church

List the letters Paul wrote to individuals:

List the **epistles** Paul wrote to churches

Name the books that **John** wrote:



The first 4 books
are called
gospels

List them:

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John

The book of
Acts
is the **history** of the
church

List the letters Paul
Wrote to individuals:

1. I Timothy
2. II Timothy
3. Titus
4. Philemon

List the **epistles**
Paul wrote to churches

1. Romans
2. I Corinthians
3. II Corinthians
4. Galatians
5. Ephesians
6. Philippians
7. Colossians
8. I Thessalonians
9. II Thessalonians

Name the books that **John** wrote:

1. John
2. I John
3. II John
4. III John
5. Revelation

Connect the letters in the first two columns to make the names of the books in the **New Testament**.

Then place a number (1-27) on the line in front of the name to list them in order.

Write the names of the books in order

_____ Matt	ppians	1.	_____
_____ I Corin	ans	2.	_____
_____ II Timo	ke	3.	_____
_____ Phili	nthians	4.	_____
_____ Ma	hew	5.	_____
_____ II Cori	lonians	6.	_____
_____ Ac	ts	7.	_____
_____ Lu	rk	8.	_____
_____ I Tim	ations	9.	_____
_____ Phile	hn	10.	_____
_____ Ephe	thians	11.	_____
_____ I Thessa	ssians	12.	_____
_____ Jo	thy	13.	_____
_____ Rom	tus	14.	_____
_____ Gal	mon	15.	_____
_____ Ti	othy	16.	_____
_____ II Thessalo	sians	17.	_____
_____ Colo	nians	18.	_____
_____ III Joh	er	19.	_____
_____ Heb	ohn	20.	_____
_____ I Pe	mes	21.	_____
_____ I Jo	rews	22.	_____
_____ Ja	de	23.	_____
_____ Revel	ter	24.	_____
_____ II Pet	n	25.	_____
_____ Ju	hn	26.	_____
_____ II J	ation	27.	_____

Connect the letters in the first two columns to make the names of the books in the **New Testament**.

Then place a number (1-27) on the line in front of the name to list them in order.

Write the names of the books in order

1	Matt	ppians	1.	<u>Matthew</u>
7	I Corin	ans	2.	<u>Mark</u>
16	II Timo	ke	3.	<u>Luke</u>
11	Phili	nthians	4.	<u>John</u>
2	Ma	hew	5.	<u>Acts</u>
8	II Cori	lonians	6.	<u>Romans</u>
5	Ac	ts	7.	<u>I Corinthians</u>
3	Lu	rk	8.	<u>II Corinthians</u>
15	I Tim	ations	9.	<u>Galatians</u>
18	Phile	hn	10.	<u>Ephesians</u>
10	Ephe	thians	11.	<u>Philippians</u>
13	I Thessa	ssians	12.	<u>Colossians</u>
4	Jo	thy	13.	<u>I Thessalonians</u>
6	Rom	tus	14.	<u>II Thessalonians</u>
9	Gal	mon	15.	<u>I Timothy</u>
17	Ti	othy	16.	<u>II Timothy</u>
14	II Thessafo	sians	17.	<u>Titus</u>
12	Colo	nians	18.	<u>Philemon</u>
25	III Joh	er	19.	<u>Hebrews</u>
19	Heb	ohn	20.	<u>James</u>
21	I Pe	mes	21.	<u>I Peter</u>
23	I Jo	rews	22.	<u>II Peter</u>
20	Ja	de	23.	<u>I John</u>
27	Revel	ter	24.	<u>II John</u>
22	II Pet	n	25.	<u>III John</u>
26	Ju	hn	26.	<u>Jude</u>
24	II J	ation	27.	<u>Revelation</u>

WORD SEARCH

Find the answers, backward, forward, upside down, or diagonally:

A B N C D E W S A V I O R R W
 F L E A R N E G I K M L P M Y
 T Q W K J B H H S R E T T E L
 I I I T I M O T H Y Y D U T S M
 R E E N Q O T S I T P A B S W
 I N S G O K A S E L C A R I M
 P I T U R S M A R K X U V A L
 S R A I W E V D C H U R C H E
 Y T M N S Y T Z L T V L C X P
 L C E H X T R U T H S Z A F S
 O O N O I T A L E V E R B C O
 H D T J A P O S T L E S G K G
 S Q J R H S E R U T P I R C S

II TIMOTHY	BOOKS	LETTERS	KING	TRUTH
NEW TESTAMENT	STUDY	BAPTIST	PAUL	GOSPEL
HOLY SPIRIT	LEARN	SAVIOR	MARK	CHURCH
SCRIPTURES	LUKE	MIRACLES	JOHN	MESSIAH
REVELATION	MATTHEW	APOSTLES	ACTS	DOCTRINE

WORD SEARCH

Find the answers, backward, forward, upside down, or diagonally:

A B N C D E W S A V I O R R W
 F L E A R N E G I K M L P M Y
 T Q W K J B H H S R E T T E L
 I I T I M O T H Y Y D U T S M
 R E E N Q O T S I T P A B S W
 I N S G O K A S E L C A R I M
 P I T U R S M A R K X U V A L
 S R A I W E V D C H U R C H E
 Y T M N S Y T Z L T V L C X P
 L C E H X T R U T H S Z A F S
 O O N O I T A L E V E R B C O
 H D T J A P O S T L E S G K G
 S Q J R H S E R U T P I R C S

- | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|------|----------|
| II TIMOTHY | BOOKS | LETTERS | KING | TRUTH |
| NEW TESTAMENT | STUDY | BAPTIST | PAUL | GOSPEL |
| HOLY SPIRIT | LEARN | SAVIOR | MARK | CHURCH |
| SCRIPTURES | LUKE | MIRACLES | JOHN | MESSIAH |
| REVELATION | MATTHEW | APOSTLES | ACTS | DOCTRINE |

Lesson 4: WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22 10:1-7 28:18-20
Mark 1:1-9 Acts 1:15 2:1-4, 41, 47 Ephesians 5:23, 25

Aim: To emphasize the importance of being faithful to the teachings of the Word of God in order to maintain a true church until Jesus returns to set up His kingdom.

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 3:21

“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.”

The first four books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell us about the coming of Jesus into the world. The Jews had been looking for a messiah for hundreds of years. Now the time had come that the messiah had been born. Most of the Jews rejected Jesus because they were looking for a king, and He came instead as their Savior. Because the Jews as a nation rejected Jesus, He turned to the Gentiles to make up His church. The church today is mostly Gentiles.

John the Baptist

God sent a man, born a few months before Jesus, to announce to the world that Jesus was the Son of God; that Jesus was the messiah they had been looking for. This man's name was **John**. He came preaching in the wilderness area that this man named **Jesus** who lived and grew up in **Nazareth** was the **Son of God**. When the Jews who heard what John said believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and they repented of their sins and accepted him as their Savior, John baptized them as a way of identifying them as followers of Jesus. God sent John for this purpose. **Mark 1:5** tells us that John baptized them in the Jordan River after they had confessed their sins. When John baptized them, he placed them under the water and raised them up out of the water. This was a picture of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. When Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross, He was buried like any other person who died. But in three days He came back to life again, and came out of the grave. **Baptism** is a **picture** of His being **buried** and **rising again**. When the time came for Jesus to tell the world who He was, the first thing He did was come to John and be baptized.

John was called '**John the Baptist**' because he baptized people. God sent an angel to tell John's father that he would be born, and to name him 'John'. The people called him 'John the Baptist', or 'John, the one who baptizes', as a way of identifying him. We call our church a **Baptist Church** because we believe in baptizing people like John did. What we believe about baptism makes us different from other churches, or denominations.

Apostles or Preachers

Jesus began calling men to follow him when he called the four fishermen, **Peter** and his brother **Andrew**, and **James** and his brother **John**. He told them to leave their occupation of fishing, and become preachers for him. A **disciple** was a **follower** of Jesus. An **apostle** was a **preacher**. Before

Jesus came, the people had **prophets** to tell them about the will of God. Now that Jesus had come into the world, they did not need prophets anymore. **Luke 6:13-16**, Jesus called twelve men from among the disciples to become **apostles**. There were only twelve apostles. There are no apostles today. Men today are called to be preachers.

The Church

Jesus started the church with these twelve apostles and other people who had been baptized by John and followed him. The definition we use today for a church is a group of people who are baptized believers, and have agreed to work together to carry out the 'great commission'. What is the great commission? **Matthew 28:18-20**, Jesus spoke to the apostles,

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

When the apostles preached and people were saved, they were to baptize them, then teach them all of the things that Jesus had taught the apostles. When Jesus started the church, the apostles had the authority through the church to baptize people. That authority has been passed down to us today. We have the written Word of God in the form of the Bible. That is where we get our instructions, and that is what we are to teach.

The Bride of Christ

The church is a special group of people. **I Corinthians 12:27**, "*Now ye are the body of Christ.*" They are special because they have been bought by the blood of Jesus, **Acts 20:28**. **Ephesians 5:23, 25-27** tells us Jesus is the head of the church. The pastor is not the head of our church. He is our leader. He has been chosen by God to be a preacher, and he has been selected by our church to be our pastor. Jesus is the head of the church. The church is referred to in the Bible as the bride of Christ. **II Corinthians 11:2**. When Jesus comes back to the earth someday to rule as our king, the church will be in a place of rulership with Jesus. As the bride of a king is the co-ruler with him in his kingdom, so shall we be with Christ during the millennial reign. We will rule and reign with him for one thousand years. When we meet as a church to worship, we are following the commands of Christ. When we baptize people who come to us repenting of their sins, and confessing that Jesus is the Christ, we are following His instruction. When we help men in other countries to preach the gospel and organize churches in other lands, we are following the command of Christ. As a member of the body of Christ, the church, when Jesus returns to set up His kingdom, we will rule and reign with Him for one thousand years.

The First Church

The book of Acts, the fifth book in the New Testament, tells us about the first church. They did not meet in the temple. The Jewish people met in the temple, and Jesus went there to preach and teach them. There was only one temple, but there were many synagogues. After the Jews were conquered by their enemies and scattered into many other nations, they did not have access to the temple at Jerusalem, so the custom of synagogue worship began. Wherever there were several Jews,

they instituted a synagogue. Nearly every small town had at least one synagogue, and large towns had many synagogues. Jesus went into the synagogues on the Sabbath and read the scriptures and taught the people.

We pattern our method of worship today after the synagogue worship. The synagogue had a ruler, one responsible for the activities that went on in the synagogue. There was a closet where the scrolls of the law and other sacred writings (prophesies) were kept. There was an elevated area with a table where the scrolls were brought and laid out. Someone was responsible for reading the scrolls to the people. After they were read, they were rolled up again and put away. After the scriptures were read, someone explained the reading to the people. They were taught the scriptures. The synagogue was a place of learning. The Bible tells us that many times Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath and read the scriptures and explained what He read to the people. The Jews were already accustomed to synagogue worship, so they patterned their worship as a church after the synagogue. We continue this custom today. We come to church to study the Word of God. Our pastor reads the scriptures and explains them to us. There were those responsible for offering prayers at the synagogue. We have men who lead in public prayer in our church services. They sang, or chanted, the psalms at the synagogue. We sing songs of praise in our services. The apostles still went to the temple at the regular times to pray and worship God. After Jesus was crucified, when the apostles went to the temple they did not go to offer sacrifices. When they went to the temple to pray, they taught the people that Jesus had come and made the supreme sacrifice.

The first church did not have a building to meet in. They met in homes, or by the seashore, or wherever they could assemble as a group. For several hundred years churches did not have buildings. The church building is not the church. The church is the people who meet together. Many times in history people had to hide in order to meet as a church and worship God. They were persecuted, or killed because they believed what the Bible taught, and they had to meet in wooded areas, or meet at night in fields, or hide in caves to worship. We are thankful today that we can have a building and meet publicly without fear of being persecuted for believing and doing what the Bible teaches us to do.

What does the book of Acts tell us about the first church? There were about one hundred and twenty people who believed that Jesus was the messiah, had been baptized by John, and were followers of Jesus. They met in a room, maybe in someone's home. After Jesus was crucified and arose from the dead, He stayed on the earth for forty days, appearing to people, and letting them know that He really was alive again. After Jesus went back to heaven, the church met every day, wondering what they should do now that their leader, Jesus, was gone. Before He left, He told them to stay at Jerusalem until He sent them power from God. Ten days after He left, He sent the Holy Spirit to be in their midst and guide them. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the church is called the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit gave them power to speak a language they had not learned. Jesus wanted the gospel spread to all nations, and when the Holy Spirit came upon the church, there were people at Jerusalem from different countries, and they spoke different languages. They could not understand the Hebrew language. Peter preached a great sermon that day, and every person heard his message in their own language. No matter what language they spoke, they understood what Peter said in their own language. About three thousand of the people who heard the message Peter preached believed what he said about

Jesus, and were baptized and added to the church. Now the church had over three thousand members. They continued to teach and preach every day. They sold their possessions and divided what they had among themselves so that everyone had what they needed. In **Acts 2:47** we learn that the Lord added to the church daily those who were saved. As the people from other nations went back home, they carried the gospel with them. When the Jews from Jerusalem moved to other places, they took the gospel with them. The apostle Paul traveled around from town to town, and when the people accepted the message he preached, more and more churches were started. God promised that there would always be a church in existence somewhere in the world. We have a true church today because someone, somewhere, continued to believe what the Bible teaches, and passed it on to us. It is important that we come to church and learn the truth about God so that we can keep the church going for those who are born after us. Not every group that claims to be a church teaches the truth. We must study our Bibles and know what the truth is so that we can continue to be a true church that is pleasing to God.

Why do we worship on Sunday and not on Saturday like the Jews did? We believe Jesus did away with the Sabbath as a day of worship when he did away with the law and the sacrifices. Jesus arose on the first day of the week, and we believe the early churches met on the first day of the week under the teaching of the apostle Paul. So we pattern our worship after the early churches. Any where and any day of the week that we meet as a group we are a church. We believe that Paul taught the church to assemble on the first day of the week, so our custom is to set aside the first day of the week for a day of rest and a day of worship.

Circle the correct answer

1. The 5th book in the New Testament is (Luke, Matthew, Acts).
2. God sent (Peter, James, John) to baptize people who repented of their sins.
3. The church is the (building, people, neighborhood).
4. The book of (John, Acts, Romans) tells about the first church.
5. After the crucifixion, the first church stayed at (Galilee, Jericho, Jerusalem).
6. The first 12 preachers were called (prophets, apostles, teachers).
7. Jesus organized the church with people who (were, were not) baptized by John.
8. John baptized in (a baptistry, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River).
9. Early churches met in (homes, the temple, a cathedral).
10. When Jesus went back to heaven, God sent (a prophet, the Holy Spirit, an angel)
to be with the church and give them power from on high.
11. People were added to the first church (once a week, once a month, everyday).
12. When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost there were about (50, 80, 120)
members of the church at Jerusalem.
13. The church will rule with Jesus for (1,000, 100, 500) years.
14. The pastor is the (head, dictator, leader) of the church today.
15. The church today is made up mostly of (Jews, Arabs, Gentiles).
16. We are called Baptists because of the way we (preach, baptize, sing).

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Look up the scriptures and fill in the blanks:

Ephesians 3:21

“Unto _____ by _____ in the _____ by Christ
_____ throughout all _____, world without _____.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Go ye therefore, and _____ all nations, _____
them in the _____ of the _____, and of the _____,
and of the _____: Teaching them to _____
all _____ whatsoever I have _____ you: and, lo, I am
with you _____, even unto the _____ of the _____.”

Acts 20:28

“Take _____ therefore unto _____, and to all the
_____, over the which the _____ hath
made you _____, to _____ the _____ of _____,
which he hath _____ with his own _____”

I Corinthians 12:27

“Now _____ are the _____ of _____,”

Acts 2:47

“Praising _____, and having favour with all the _____. And the
_____ to the _____ such as
should be _____.”

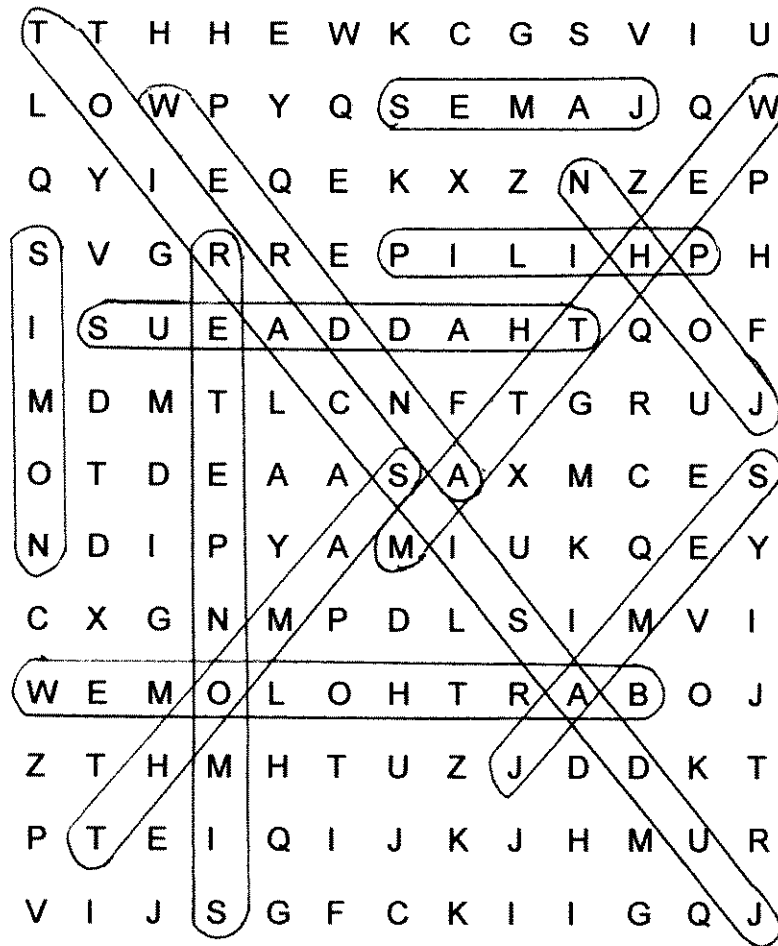
WORD SEARCH

Find the names of the **12 apostles** in the puzzle below.
If you need help, turn to **Mark 3:16-19**.

T T H H E W K C G S V I U
L O W P Y Q S E M A J Q W
Q Y I E Q E K X Z N Z E P
S V G R R E P I L I H P H
I S U E A D D A H T Q O F
M D M T L C N F T G R U J
O T D E A A S A X M C E S
N D I P Y A M I U K Q E Y
C X G N M P D L S I M V I
W E M O L O H T R A B O J
Z T H M H T U Z J D D K T
P T E I Q I J K J H M U R
V I J S G F C K I I G Q J

WORD SEARCH

Find the names of the **12 apostles** in the puzzle below.
If you need help, turn to **Mark 3:16-19**.



Lesson 5: WHO WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

Scriptures: Luke 1:5-25, 57-66, 80 Exodus 28:33-35, 30:1-10 I Chronicles 23:13

Aim: To acquaint the student with the one sent from God to prepare the hearts of the Jewish nation to receive Jesus as the Son of God; the one who prepared the material for the organization of the first church.

MEMORY VERSE: John 1:6-7

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe."

It had been about 400 years since the last book in the Old Testament was written. It has been several hundred years since any prophecies had been made about the coming of the Son of God. Now, the time had come for Jesus to be born. God needed someone to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus. He needed someone to announce to the world that this was His Son, the Messiah that had been promised. He needed someone to prepare the hearts of the people of Israel to receive Him as the Promised One.

Zacharias, the Priest

The first chapter of the book of Luke tells us of a man named **Zacharias**. He was a descendant of the tribe of **Levi**, one of the twelve tribes of Israel, the tribe of **priests** in the Old Testament. His wife, Elizabeth, was also a descendant of the daughters of Aaron, who was the first high priest in the nation of Israel. They were both righteous people. No fault could be found in their lives or their service to God. They were both getting to be very old and wanted a child very much, but did not have any children. Zacharias was dedicated to his life of service as a priest. Each family in the tribe of Levi had a certain part of the worship for which they were responsible. As a descendant of Aaron, the first high priest, his responsibility was to burn incense.

The Promise of A Son

One day when Zacharias went into the temple to burn incense, **Gabriel**, an angel of the Lord appeared, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. When Zacharias saw him, he became frightened. Zacharias was a man of faith, but he probably had never seen an angel. His first reaction was fear. The angel said, "*Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.*" Zacharias had prayed for many years for a son. The angel assured him his prayers would be answered. He would have a son, and this child would not be like other men. He would be different. He would not drink wine or strong drink, and he would grow up to be great in the sight of the Lord. He would be filled with the Holy Spirit from the time he was born. God had chosen the nation of Israel to be His special people, but He knew they would reject His Son as the messiah. The angel said that John would prepare a people for the Lord. This people he prepared would be the church.

The Sign

Zacharias questioned the angel about this son that he had promised. He was an **old man** and his wife was an **old woman**. They had wanted a child for many years. They thought the time was long past that they should ever have a child. Zacharias did not doubt God, but he doubted himself. Was this really happening, or was it just an illusion. How could they know that all of this had really happened? How could they know it was not just a dream? Zacharias asked, "How shall I **know** this will happen?" The angel said, "*I am **Gabriel**, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.*" He identified himself as Gabriel, the angel that God used to send messages to men. Gabriel said because Zacharias did not believe him, in order to prove that this event really happened, he would not be able to speak until his son was born. "*And, behold, thou shalt be **dumb**, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.*"

The people waiting outside the temple for Zacharias became anxious. He usually finished his duties in the temple and came out much sooner than this. They could not understand why it took him so long. They wondered what was happening in the temple. Then when he came out, he could not speak, so he could not tell them. All he could do was motion and make signs. The people assumed that he had seen a vision in the temple that had left him speechless. As soon as his time of service in the temple was finished, he went to his own house, and told his wife, Elizabeth, the good news. He must have written down what had happened, because he could not speak until the child was born.

The Birth Of John

After several months the time came for Elizabeth's baby to be born. It was a little boy, just as the angel had said. The neighbors and relatives were all very excited. When a Jewish boy was born, they did not name him until he was 8 days old. When the time came to name him, the relatives all called him Zacharias after his father. Elizabeth said, "Not so; but he shall be called **John**." They could not understand. "*And they said unto her, there is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.*" Why would they name him John? There had never been any family members named John. Where had they gotten this name? They made signs to Zacharias (even though he could hear, he had only lost his speech) asking him what he wanted to name the child. Zacharias asked for something to write on, and he wrote, "***His name is John.***" Immediately he could speak, and he began to praise God. All the people were amazed, and fear came upon them. Word soon spread throughout all the hill country round about them and everyone wondered what kind of child this was.

His Mission

John was sent to go before the Lord to **prepare the way** for the coming of the Son of God. When a king traveled, he sat in a 'seat' on a 'platform' that was carried on the shoulders of many men. The roadways were rough, rocky, and crooked. Before the king traveled, they would send men before him to prepare the road for his safe passage. If the men carrying the king stepped in a hole, or stumbled over rocks, the king would be in danger. If there were large rocks, they would dig them up and remove them. They would fill in the holes left by the rocks, to make the ground level and smooth. Sometimes trees must be cut down to make the road straight. They would go before him and

prepare the roadway so the men carrying him would not have anything over which to stumble. They would cut down the humps, and fill in the holes; make the crooked ways straight, and the rough ways smooth. This was the purpose of John; to prepare the way for the coming of the messiah. By his preaching he would remove any obstacles over which the Jews would 'stumble'.

God needed someone to change the minds of the people. The law was intended to teach them that they were sinful and in need of a Savior. But the Jews thought that by keeping the laws they became righteous in the sight of God. John came to tell them that they were sinful, and in need of forgiveness. He taught them they needed to be baptized to show the great sacrifice that Jesus would make: His death, burial, and resurrection. When they offered animal sacrifices it taught them of the sacrifice of Jesus. This was all going to change. The law of Moses would be taken out of the way, and after the crucifixion of Jesus, there would be no more animal sacrifices made at the temple. Their whole system of worship would change. They would not do the things they had always done, and their fathers before them had done. They would no longer offer an animal to show they trusted God to forgive their sins. They would no longer burn incense. They would no longer observe holy days, and feasts. Their entire system of worship would change. Their minds had to be prepared for this change. They had to believe it was not being done away, but being fulfilled. The whole purpose of what their fathers had believed and taught was coming to pass. They had to accept this change of worship and not feel they were denying God, but were accepting the truth about God and about Jesus, God's Son.

John began baptizing people in the Jordan River, because there was enough water there to completely bury the person under the water. This pictured the burial of Jesus. When the person was raised up out of the water, this pictured Jesus coming back to life. John was called "the Baptist" because he was the first person to baptize people. This had not been done before. He gained a lot of attention, and many people came to see him out of curiosity. He would not baptize everyone who came to him. First, he made them prove by the way they lived that they had repented of their sins, then he baptized them because they had already repented.

The Bible tells us John grew up strong in the spirit of God, and stayed in the desert area until time for him to announce Jesus to the nation of Israel. He grew up in the wilderness around Judea. He wore clothing made from **camel's hair**, a rough, common type fabric, with a **leather belt** made from the skin of an animal tied around him. He ate **locusts** and **wild honey**. Locusts were not an unclean food. They were permitted under the law that God gave to Moses concerning the foods that the Israelite people could eat. He did not sleep in a soft bed, and wear fine clothes. He did not eat rich foods. He had clothing sufficient to keep him warm, and cover him as he slept at night. He ate what he found in the wilderness, sufficient to keep him filled and healthy. He lived in the world for one purpose, and that was to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus.

John did not begin preaching until God told him it was time. He was about 30 years old when God sent him (**Mark 1:2**) to present Jesus to the nation of Israel as their messiah. Jesus said that besides himself, there had never been a greater man live than John the Baptist. **Matthew 11:11**, *"Verily I say unto you, among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."*

This lesson is more lengthy than the others. If time permits, include this page.

His Ministry

The ministry of John was relatively short. He had preached for about six months when Jesus came to him to be baptized. When Jesus called out some of the men whom John had baptized, to be apostles, or preachers, then they began to baptize by the authority of Jesus. Some of the Jews came to John and asked him why they were also baptizing, and John said, "*There is one greater than I who will come after me, and he must increase, but I must decrease.*" John knew he had come to prepare the hearts of the people to receive Jesus, and he had done that. He did not want attention. He did not want followers. When Jesus started his church, he gave them the authority to baptize, and so John had completed his purpose.

His Death

Matthew 14:1-12 tells us of the death of John the Baptist. Sometimes God uses ungodly men to work His will. The ruler of the area was named Herod. He was not a godly man. He had taken his brother's wife to be his wife, and John told him this was wrong in the eyes of God. It was against the laws of the Jewish people. Herodias hated John because he had condemned them for their sins, and would have had him killed, but Herod instead placed him in prison. After some time, the king had a birthday, celebrated with a huge feast and invited all of his important friends to attend. For entertainment, the daughter of Herodias came and danced before them, and pleased the king very much. In return, Herod asked what she would like to have as a reward. Herodias saw this as an opportunity to get rid of John the Baptist, so she told her daughter to ask for his head on a charger. A charger was a tray, or large platter, on which they served their food at a feast. She came back to the king, and said, "I want the head of John the Baptist brought to me on a charger." The king was very sorry at her request, but because of the promise he had made to her before all of his guests, he could not refuse to grant it. He immediately sent the executioner to the prison and had John beheaded. They brought the head on a charger and presented it to the young girl. She took it to her mother.

"He must increase, but I must decrease." John knew what his purpose in the world was, and he knew that he had served that purpose.

Who Was John the Baptist?

Worksheet 1

Name the priest who was the father of John the Baptist:

Who was the mother of John the Baptist?

Name the angel God sent to speak to Zacharias:

State the purpose of God sending John:

Why was he called John "the Baptist"?

From which tribe of Israel was John a descendant?

How old was John when he began to baptize?

How did John the Baptist die?

Who Was John the Baptist?

Worksheet 1 Answers

1 Name the priest who was the father of John the Baptist:
Zacharias

2 Who was the mother of John the Baptist?
Elizabeth

Name the angel God sent to speak to Zacharias:
Gabriel

State the purpose of God sending John:
to prepare the way for
for the coming of Jesus
as the Son of God

Why was he called John "the Baptist"
because he baptized those who believed his message

From which tribe of Israel was John a descendant?
Levi

How old was John when he began to baptize?
30 years old

How did John the Baptist die?
he was beheaded

WORD SEARCH

Circle the words in the puzzle: forward, backward, upside down or diagonally.

J O H N T H E B A P T I S T
 A B H L E G N A E G Q N Q T
 K F R J T N E P E R C C N N
 D N A M E C R T Z O H E R O
 D H T E B A Z I L E U N D S
 E C L E Y U L Z W D R S U I
 D A A I M A R E T O C E U R
 A E P M J P I N O G H V S P
 E R J B E L L S C D E K Y O
 H P H N S M H E R O D N X Z
 E V R L U Z A C H A R I A S
 B U S D S S E N R E D L I W
 T W S E T A N A R G E M O P

JOHN THE BAPTIST
 WILDERNESS
 POMEGRANATES
 ELIZABETH
 BEHEADED
 ZACHARIAS

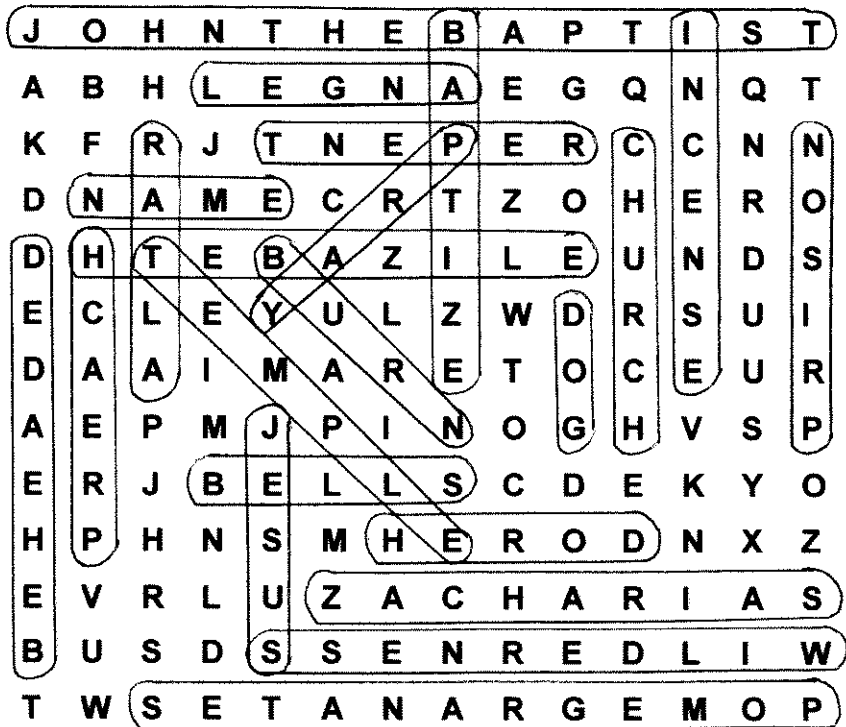
BAPTIZE
 INCENSE
 REPENT
 ANGEL
 TEMPLE
 PREACH

PRAY
 BURN
 GOD
 NAME
 BELLS

CHURCH
 PRISON
 JESUS
 ALTAR
 HEROD

WORD SEARCH

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JOHN THE BAPTIST
 WILDERNESS
 POMEGRANATES
 ELIZABETH
 BEHEADED
 ZACHARIAS

BAPTIZE
 INCENSE
 REPENT
 ANGEL
 TEMPLE
 PREACH

PRAY
 BURN
 GOD
 NAME
 BELLS

CHURCH
 PRISON
 JESUS
 ALTAR
 HEROD