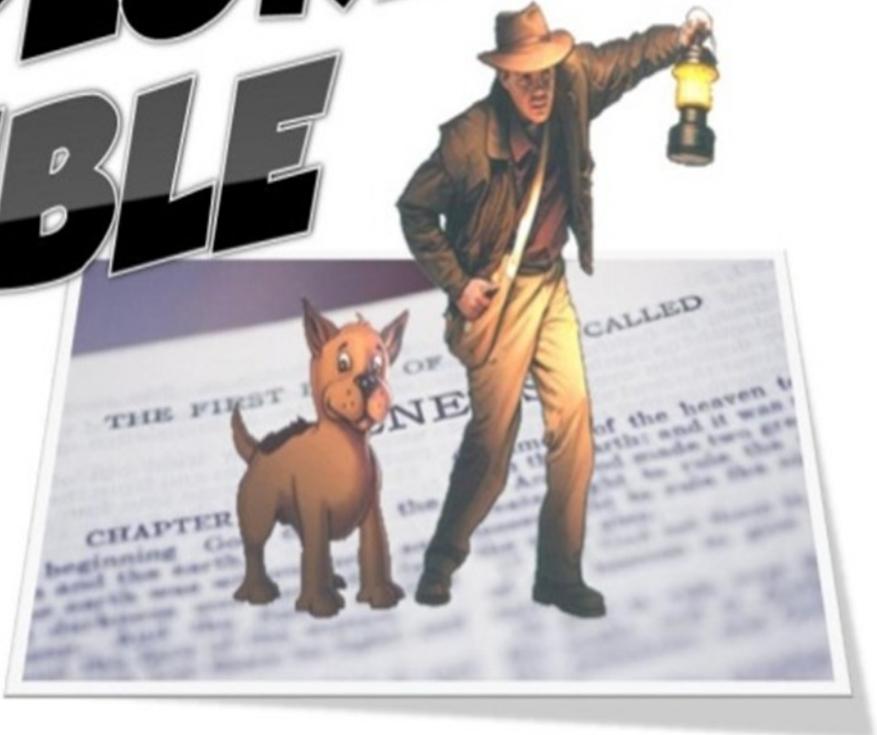


8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION SEMINAR

EXPLORE THE BIBLE



Theme: To gain a basic knowledge of the Bible and about the Bible, its makeup, history, and message.
To develop the knowledge to defend your faith in the Bible using both biblical and non-biblical information.

Assignments:

Over the course of these 4 weeks, you will be required to memorize the names of the 66 books of the Bible in order and with correct spelling.

Lesson #1 Class Presentation—The Bible

At Home Review:

- Watch Video: Trailer and Session 1
- Review Packet p. 3—6
- Memorize: Genesis—Esther (with correct spelling)

Lesson #2 Class Presentation—How Did We Get the Bible

At Home Review:

- Watch Video: How We Got the Bible part 3
- Review Packet pp 7-12
- Memorize Bible Books: Job –Daniel (with correct spelling)

Lesson #3 Class Presentation—Is the Bible Reliable?

At Home Review:

- Watch Video: Session 2
- Review Packet pp 13-15
- Memorize Bible Books: Hosea—Malachi (with correct spelling)

Lesson #4 Class Presentation—The Main Message of the Bible

At Home Review:

- Watch Video: Session 3
- Review Packet pp 16-18
- Memorize Bible Books: Matthew —Revelation (with correct spelling)

Exam on this Unit

- Class presentations, videos, packet questions and memory work

Lesson #4

WHAT IS THE MAIN MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE?

The main message of the Bible contains two parts. Let's look at the first part. Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Matthew 19:17-19 [Jesus said], "If you want to enter life, obey the commandments... Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."



James 2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

Galatians 3:10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone *who does not continue to do everything* written in the Book of the Law."

Matthew 5:48 *Be perfect*, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

According to the underlined portions of those passages, what does God want us to do?

Keep the law

According to the italicized portions of those passages, what is the standard that God sets for obedience?

perfection

Romans 3:20,22,23 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law;

rather, through the law we become conscious of sin... There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death...*

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but *sent them to hell*, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...

According to the underlined portions of those passages, who is able to win heaven by keeping the commandments?

No can since no one can be perfect

According to the italicized portions of those passages, what do people deserve when they disobey God?

Punishment / death forever

On the basis of these passages, how would you summarize the first part of the main message of the Bible?

All people are sinful and deserve punishment.

We sometimes call this message the "Law."



DEFINITION: Law — 1) The commandments which tell people what God wants them to do and not to do.

2) The message of the Bible that all are sinful and deserve eternal damnation.

Fortunately, that isn't where God's message to us ends. Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Luke 2:10,11 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ

the Lord.

1 **John 4:14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Colossians 2:13,14 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, *the forgiveness of sins*, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have *eternal life.*"

According to the underlined portions of those verses, why do we need not fear being punished for breaking God's Law?

God forgives us for Jesus' sake

According to the italicized portions of those verses, what did Jesus win for us?

forgiveness

On the basis of these passages, how would you summarize the second part of the main message of the Bible?

Jesus provides forgiveness through His life and death

God sent Jesus to be the ___*Savior*___ of the world.



We often refer to this message as "the Gospel." "Gospel" means "good news."

Therefore, in order to answer that question, "WHAT IS THE MAIN MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE," you could read your answers to questions 14 and 17 together with a "but" in the middle. For that answer would convey both the message of God's Law and his Gospel.

One mistake that people often make is assuming that the Scriptures contain TWO messages — one found in the Old Testament and one found in the New Testament.



Read the following Bible verses and indicate in the blank in front of the reference whether the passage is law (L) or Gospel (G).

1. Deuteronomy 4:24 L

2. John 3:16 G

3. Romans 3:20 G

4. Galatians 4:4,5 G

5. John 1:29 G

6. Ephesians 5:2 G

7. Romans 5:10 G

8. Romans 7:18 L

Read Psalm 119: 1-16

Psalm 119 is an acrostic psalm. Look that term up in a dictionary. What does it mean?

Verse section starts with a subsequent letter of the alphabet (wee can see it only in Hebrew)

v. 9 emphasizes the value of the word for the young. What is it?

To keep his way (life) pure

Why is memorization important (v.11) since we have Bibles in our homes?

Easier to remember/find passages. Always in mind.

Read Psalm 119:65-72

v. 67 When we disobey God's commands there are often unpleasant consequences. How do they help us?

They serve as reminders and guides not to repeat the wrong action

What may happen as we try to do the right thing according to vv. 69-70?

We may be lied about or persecuted by unbelievers

v. 72 Since this verse is true, how will you show (what will you do) to show it?

Learning it, obeying it, memorizing it, etc.

Read Psalm 119:105-11

v.106 What event does this passage remind you of that happens after your 3rd year in catechism class

confirmation

What does it mean to have your heart set on God's decrees?

My goal is to live by them, honor them and grow to be more as God wants