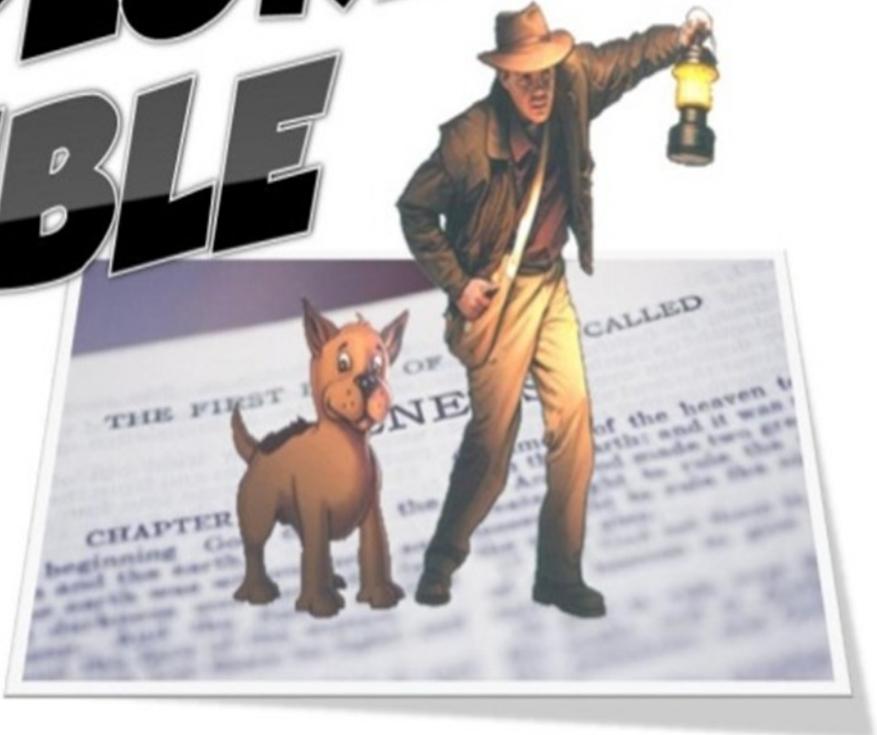


**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION SEMINAR**

**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 #3

### Watch the Video: Session 2

#### Is the Bible Reliable?

Modern attacks on the Bible began 200 years ago and have increased over the years.

- Do you know anyone who denies Jesus was actually an historical person?

Very few do deny this. Most accept he was an historical figure

- What is the danger of denying that God actually gets involved in human history?

God becomes distant and unconcerned. Humans are left up to themselves to fix their problems.

#### Read 2 Peter 1:1-21

- Why do you think someone would accuse the Bible's writers of inventing clever stories?

The stories about Jesus seem too fantastic, too unrealistic to be true. Some think they must be fiction.

- What are some the presuppositions people have when they criticize the Bible?

The book is too old to be relevant  
There is no God  
The stories are just myths, legends

- How can you approach and witness to someone who has these false presuppositions?

Remind them no one has ever proven the Bible to be wrong or made up. No contradictory evidence ever found.

In the video, Dr. Maier pointed out that computers work whether we believe they can or not. Jesus Christ truly died and rose again even if there is not a single person who believes it happened. Even the unbelief of the world won't make a single fact untrue.

- What's wrong with the thought that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere?

Sincerity doesn't make a person right, only sincere. You can believe the wrong thing sincerely and still be wrong.

- How might you try to persuade someone that his false presuppositions cannot change God's truth?

Use every day examples from math and science. People used to believe the world was flat but that didn't change the truth that it was round.

**Essentially ...** Everyone holds one of two positions on the Bible. The only question is: Which one?

#### “Position A”

All Scripture is inspired by God. God in a miraculous way gave the writers not only the concepts or main ideas but even gave them the very words they used to convey those concepts. Therefore, the Scriptures contain no errors or real contradictions. God is, in reality, the single author of all the books of the Bible, though he used different men to record His Word. Believers thus use their human reason to study the Scriptures, but subject their reason to the divine Word.

#### “Position B”

All Scripture is inspired only in the way a person is “inspired” to write a poem or a song. The books of the Bible were written by men who were influenced by the beliefs and culture and science of their time. The Bible contains many errors and real contradictions, as well as myths and fables and legends. Human beings must dissect the Scriptures with “scientific” methods to find whatever “truth” there may be, thus the Scriptures are subjected to the judgment of human reason.

## Inspiration

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is God breathed

**2 Peter 1:21** the \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ directed the prophets and apostles as they wrote

-What do you “envision” when you read ... *“carried along by the Holy Spirit”*?

The Holy Spirit pushed the writers and they simply followed as He directed



\*1 Corinthians 2:13 – Every word is from God.



This is called **Verbal Inspiration**. When we say that the Bible is “verbally inspired,” we mean that God the Holy Spirit guided men to record the exact words he wanted them to write.

### The Bible is God’s Truth

**John 17:17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is true.

**Proverbs 30:5** "For every word of God is flawless..."

**Numbers 23:19** God will keep his promises.

### The Bible’s Reliability

There have been hundreds of books written on the subject of the evidences of the divine inspiration of the Bible, and these evidences are many and varied. Most people today, unfortunately, have not read any of these books. In fact, few have even read the Bible itself! Thus, many people tend to go along with the popular delusion that the Bible is full of mistakes and is no longer relevant to our modern world.

Nevertheless the Bible writers claimed repeatedly that they were transmitting the very Word of God, infallible and authoritative in the highest degree. This is an amazing thing for any writer to say, and if the forty or so men who wrote the Scriptures were wrong in these claims, then they must have been lying, or insane, or both.

But, on the other hand, if the greatest and most influential book of the ages, containing the most beautiful literature and the most perfect moral code ever devised, was written by deceiving fanatics, then what hope is there for ever finding meaning and purpose in this world?

If one will seriously investigate these Biblical evidences, he will find that their claims of divine inspiration (stated over 3,000 times, in various ways) were amply justified.

### Fulfilled Prophecies

The remarkable evidence of fulfilled prophecy is just one case in point. Hundreds of Bible prophecies have been fulfilled, specifically and meticulously, often long after the prophetic writer had passed away.

For example, Daniel the prophet predicted in about 538 BC (Daniel 9:24-27) that Christ would come as Israel's promised Savior and Prince 483 years after the Persian emperor would give the Jews authority to rebuild Jerusalem, which was then in ruins. This was clearly and definitely fulfilled, hundreds of years later.

There are extensive prophecies dealing with individual nations and cities and with the course of history in general, all of which have been literally fulfilled. More than 300 prophecies were fulfilled by Christ Himself at His first coming. Other prophecies deal with the spread of Christianity, as well as various false religions, and many other subjects.

There is no other book, ancient or modern, like this. The vague, and usually erroneous, prophecies of people like Jeanne Dixon, Nostradamus, Edgar Cayce, and others like them are not in the same category at all, and neither are other religious books such as the Koran, the Confucian Analects, and similar religious writings. Only the Bible manifests this remarkable prophetic evidence, and it does so on such a tremendous scale as to render completely absurd any explanation other than divine revelation.

### Scientific Accuracy

Another striking evidence of divine inspiration is found in the fact that many of the principles of modern science were recorded as facts of nature in the Bible long before scientist confirmed them experimentally. A sampling of these would include:

- Roundness of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)
- Almost infinite extent of the sidereal universe (Isaiah 55:9)
- Law of conservation of mass and energy (II Peter 3:7)
- Hydrologic cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
- Vast number of stars (Jeremiah 33:22)
- Law of increasing entropy (Psalms 102:25-27)
- Paramount importance of blood in life processes (Leviticus 17:11)
- Atmospheric circulation (Ecclesiastes 1:6)
- Gravitational field (Job 26:7)

- and many others.

These are not stated in the technical jargon of modern science, of course, but in terms of the basic world of man's everyday experience; nevertheless, they are completely in accord with the most modern scientific facts.

It is significant also that no real mistake has ever been demonstrated in the Bible -- in science, in history, or in any other subject. Many have been claimed, of course, but conservative Bible scholars have always been able to work out reasonable solutions to all such problems.

### Unique Structure

The remarkable structure of the Bible should also be stressed. Although it is a collection of [66 books](#), written by 40 or more different men over a period of 2,000 years, it is clearly one Book, with perfect unity and consistency throughout.

The individual writers, at the time of writing, had no idea that their message was eventually to be incorporated into such a Book, but each nevertheless fits perfectly into place and serves its own unique purpose as a component of the whole. Anyone who diligently studies the Bible will continually find remarkable structural and mathematical patterns woven throughout its fabric, with an intricacy and symmetry incapable of explanation by chance or collusion.

The one consistent theme of the Bible, developing in grandeur from Genesis to Revelation, is God's great work in the [creation](#) and [redemption](#) of all things, through His only Son, the Lord [Jesus Christ](#).



### Confronting the News with Scripture

The Bible offers us many verses that deal with the effect of evidence on belief. Here is a sampling:

#### Exodus 4:9

*"If they will not believe even these two signs or heed you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."* (For context, read 3:1-12; 4:1-9.)

**Questions:** How does a predisposition to believe affect how we view supporting evidence or "proof"? How does a predisposition to skepticism affect how we view it?

When we believe the believe supporting evidence shows we were right. If one doesn't believe the Bible then supporting evidence will be rejected as bad science.

#### 1 Kings 18:38-39

*"Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, 'The LORD indeed is God; the LORD indeed is God.'"* (For context, read 18:20-39.)

**Questions:** In matters of faith, are all attempts at "proof" wasted effort? Why or why not?

Faith is being sure of what is not "proven." It is certainty about what is not seen. Proofs are OK as long as we don't build our faith on them or question our faith if the "proofs" aren't there. Faith feosn't need proof.

#### Psalm 78:19-20

*"They spoke against God, saying, 'Can God spread a table in the wilderness? Even though he struck the rock so that water gushed out and torrents overflowed, can he also give bread, or provide meat for his people?'"* (For context, read 78:12-20.)

**Question:** Those who look with the eyes of faith see God's activity in the daily blessings life. What explanations do those who look without that perspective offer?

They only see the laws of science, nature, and good fortune. They don't see God's love.

What evidence supports your faith? What things would you point to if someone asked you why you believe in Jesus. Write a brief essay to turn into to pastor. (100 **good** words)