

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 1



THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD

Scripture Texts: Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:89

The Bible used to have a larger place in the life of our people than now. It was read in many homes, used as an early school reader, studied, believed, and revered. Government leaders looked to it for foundation principles. Much literature contained Bible quotations. The Bible was read in schools, and passages from it were in reading books.

Gradually the Bible has been neglected. Fewer and fewer homes have family worship. Schools have dropped its use. As more Bibles lay closed, more people grow up ignorant of its teachings and indifferent to its authority. As a result, our nation has sunk to its lowest spiritual state. The Bible has the answer to every question and the solution to every problem that man faces today. God's Word is perfect in every way. It is genuine, authentic, and authoritative.

MEMORY VERSE: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

—Isaiah 40:8

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Deuteronomy 4:2-14** As the Lord commanded.

Tues.—**Isaiah 59:16-21** God's Word is forever.

Wed.—**Jeremiah 36** Punished for burning God's Word.

Thurs.—**Ezekiel 33:21-29** God inspired Ezekiel.

Fri.—**2 Thessalonians 2:1-13** Not man's word, but God's.

Devotional Reading: Psalm 19 God speaks to man.

Description of God's Word

Psalm 19:7-9 Five different names are given here by David to God's Word—**law . . . testimony . . . statutes . . . commandment . . . judgments**. Each adds a little different shade of meaning. He tells us it is **perfect . . . sure . . . right . . . pure . . . clean . . . true . . . righteous altogether**. It is sure—solid, strong, dependable. It is pure—unmixed. It is righteous altogether—no wrong or foreign bits in it. There are unbelievers who say the Bible merely "contains" the Word of God (along with many human words). No, it *is* the unmixed Word of God. It is right and good because God is good.

What God's Word Does

The Word of God blesses the whole man. **Converting the soul**—bringing salvation to it. **Making wise**—educates the mind. **Rejoicing the heart**—believing and obeying brings greatest joy. **Enlightening the eyes**—a Spirit-filled saint has a brighter look at life. **Enduring forever**—the saint who keeps the Word of God in **the fear of the Lord** will endure forever, living a strong and effective life.

Psalm 19:10-11 The wise, Spirit-filled one desires the Word of God. He has a real hunger and thirst for the Bible. He feels a need for it in his life each day. It is more precious than **gold** and **sweeter also than honey**. Gold speaks of value, honey of enjoyment. The Bible warns—shows the danger of straying from the right. **In keeping of them**—obedience—**there is great reward**, both here and in Heaven.

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A Settled Word

Psalm 119:89 Forever—eternally past, present, and future—God's **word is settled in heaven**. It is sure and changeless. Man cannot reach there to set it aside. He may reject or disobey it, but he cannot change it. The Word of God will change man, but man cannot change the Word of God. Read what happened to a man who burned God's Word in **Jeremiah, Chapter 36**.

Reason for the Bible

It is just natural that an all-wise Creator would communicate with His Creation. Would He make a world as complex as this, with many forms of life as well as the human mind and spirit, then abandon it without care or control? That would be unthinkable. He gave His Word to man in the Bible. It is a compass and chart to guide him along on his journey in this world.

The Bible, from beginning to end, recognizes that there is a definite and known Word of God. It shows itself to be that Word. Hundreds of times we read **the word of the Lord came . . . God said . . . the commandments of God . . . thus saith the Lord**, etc. It simply states this with no attempt to prove it, which is a characteristic of truth.

God reveals Himself to man through (1) nature, (2) the Bible, (3) Jesus, and (4) the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the path by which we are led to Christ and the Spirit.

The Bible is a collection of sixty-six Books, written by a number of authors, over about sixteen hundred years. The chief theme running throughout the Bible is the reclaiming of man from sin to eternal fellowship with God.

The Bible has two divisions—the Old Testament with thirty-nine Books and the New Testament with twenty-seven Books. The Old Testament tells of man's fall into sin and God's promise of salvation from it. It tells of God's choosing of a people for Himself through whom to send the Savior. To them, He gave the Law in preparation for salvation. The New Testament begins with the coming of the Savior and unfolds the plan of salvation to its culmination in Heaven. It tells of the gathering of a people of God—the church—to enjoy this salvation. The two Testaments are closely related. Almost all of the Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. The New Testament was written in Greek. For people of other languages to read the Bible, it had to be translated into their languages. Any certain translation is called a version.

A Great Loss

All over the land are various moves for or against the Bible. When people lose the Bible, they open the door to all kinds of evil and invite God's judgments. We are losing the Bible in many cases. We must do all we can to bring it back. How can we do this? By using it and preserving it in our own individual lives. Put it back into our homes and lives. We may have to die for it yet. But isn't the Bible worth the cost? Many in times past considered it so.

This quarter's lessons accent the Bible with the purpose of increasing our knowledge of, love for, and obedience to, the Bible. But the Sunday school will never be enough to stem the tide of evil rolling across the land. Daily, personal home worship is necessary. Without it, we are saying by our example, "The Bible is not important." With it and obedience to it, we can arm ourselves with the strength of God. God grant that we do so.

JUST A THOUGHT

It is harder to crush a half-truth than a whole lie.