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Volume **1**

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Primary Doctrines

# A Parent's Handbook For Teaching Their Children The Word Of God

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# Volume I Chapter 2

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# Bible

The Bible is the divinely-inspired Word of God, the repository of His plan of salvation and the record of His participation in history. The Bible is God's revelation of knowledge that man cannot discover for himself. It is the foundation of knowledge and the guidebook to life. The Old and New Testament comprise God's written Word which forms the basis of Christianity as taught by the Church and as practiced by the individual Christian.

## Introduction

# Bible

*Is the Bible an ancient book  
that we cannot relate to  
today?*

The Church of God, International believes that the Bible is the divinely inspired word of God. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...(II Timothy 3:16).

Essential to the teaching of the Church, is the fact that the Bible can be proved to be the written Word of God. The foremost proof that God’s Word is precisely what it claims to be is that it works in one’s life. The proof of obedience is the Bible’s best stamp of divine authorship. Adherence to its principles, laws and concepts bring about success and happiness in one’s own life, which is ultimately the most critical ratification of its divine inspiration.

The Bible is the Word of  
God.

The Church acknowledges that the Bible does not claim to be a textbook of comprehensive world history, science and technology, medicine or any other non-theological discipline. The Bible is the Word of God, and as such, it is the foundation of all knowledge, as well as being the storehouse of salvation.

Fulfilled prophecy is an important aspect of God’s Holy Word. Here is an example:

The Bible is great literature, with many literary forms and devices. Poetry, prose, allegory, epic parable, history, even humor.

- Isaiah 41:21-24 Only God can predict and bring to pass events of the future.
- Isaiah 44-45 Only the Creator God could predict the name and actions of Cyrus long before his birth.
- Isaiah 9:6-7 Only God could foretell in detail about the coming of His Son as Saviour of the world.

**The Bible is many books  
yet one, a superlative  
example of *e pluribus unum*  
 (“one composed of  
many”).**

The Bible has absolute preeminence over all other books esteemed by mankind and challenges all mankind by its claims of purity. Psalm 12:6 and Proverbs 30:5

From Genesis to Revelation we read of the same God, the same massive plan being unfolded and developed, with each book augmenting, supporting and complementing that which has gone before.

Bible means “book”. Teach your child the following:

II Peter 1:20  
Although many different men played a role in writing the Bible as they were led by the Holy Spirit, the Bible is in reality God’s Word, not man’s.

The Bible is indeed the full expression of God’s mind and purpose for humanity

There are 66 books in the Bible. The Bible is divided into two sections. The first section is the Old Testament, and there are 39 books. The second section is the New Testament, and there are 27 books. Show your child where the Table of Contents is in the Bible, and how it can help them to find any book in the Bible. Point out how each book is divided by chapter and verse. Then instruct the following facts:

- The first book of the Bible is Genesis.
- The last book of the Bible is Revelation.
- The first book of the New Testament is Matthew.

How can we comprehend the Bible if we must understand all the doctrines before we can understand any one, and we cannot understand all the doctrines until we understand the sum total of each individual one? The only solution is through the leading of God’s Holy Spirit and by diligent, dedicated Bible study.

God’s Word is a totally unique collection of writings. These writings are absolutely profound in every sense, making commonly available to all mankind the words of life, the hope for today, and the promise of tomorrow. It is man’s responsibility and privilege to seek out the incredible depths and riches of God’s mind as revealed in His Word.

Let’s begin now to seek out God’s truth and teach the following lessons to our children.

## Lesson 1

# New Land For Abraham

*Bible Story:*  
*Genesis 11:27-12:8*

### Focus:

- God will guide and instruct us through His Word—the Bible.

### Purpose:

- Abraham obeyed God.
- Abraham trusted God.
- We should commit to God.

### Memory Verse:

- Psalm 37:5 “Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

### Memorize:

The books of the Bible

Memorizing the books of the Bible will take some time. Be patient.

## Generate Interest

Find a map that shows the journeys Abraham took.

Discuss how a map is needed when you do not know how to get to a certain destination. A map is useful when finding locations you are unfamiliar with. When you plan your next family trip, have your child participate charting the roads you will take to reach your specified location. While doing this, point out the important features of a map. Such as:

- Index to Cities and Towns.

How is the Bible like a map?

The Bible is like a map in the following ways:

Value your Bible.

- The Bible, like a map is a guide.
- The Bible will help you find success in your life. A map will help you be successful in finding your way to an unknown location.
- The Bible will instruct us in what is right and what is wrong. A map will tell you the most efficient way of arriving at your destination.

## Who was Abraham?

Elaborate on what it must have been like to live during this time.

Abraham was a descendant of Noah. Abraham was first called Abram. Joshua 24:2 tells us that Abraham's father was Terah, and that his father worshiped pagan gods. Abraham spent most of his childhood in Ur. During Abraham's time, the city of Ur was progressive. No, there was no garbage pickup, and the streets were not paved. However, for the most part it was comfortable. The city of Ur was surrounded by man-made canals. The people did live in one story mud shelters. Ur was a marketplace for farmers and traveling merchants. Imagine how exciting it would be for the people in Ur to see exotic goods from places like India.

# Synopsis

Our story takes place many years after the Tower of Babel incident. This was when man tried to build a tower up to the heavens. God then confused the language of mankind.

Read the Bible Story.

Genesis 11:27-12:8

Why did God speak to Abraham?

- Abraham did not have a Bible. The Bible was not written as yet.

Today, God speaks to us through the Bible. The Bible is the written word of God.

- Read II Peter 1:20-21.

Think about it!

If we choose to obey the word of God, we please God. You have memorized the Ten Commandments. Would this world be a happier place if everyone obeyed the Ten Commandments?

Discuss:

Reinforce the story by reading ;  
Acts 7:2-4 and Hebrews 11:8

- Did God command Abraham to leave his country?
- Was it easy for Abraham and Sarah to leave a place they had lived all their life?
- Was it easy for them to leave their family and friends?
- Do you think that Abraham worried about where God was going to take him?

Follow the example of  
Abraham.

Obey the Word of God and  
trust in God.

Abraham obeyed God by leaving his country, home, family and friends. Abraham did not know where he was going. However, he trusted that God would direct him in the way he should go.



## Lesson 2

# God Speaks to Moses

- Bible Story:* Focus:  
*Exodus 3:1-4:31*
- Trust that God will help you do what you need to do.

### Purpose:

- The Bible is the word of God.
- We should desire to obey God's Word.
- Serving God by obedience to His Word.

### Memory Verse:

Joshua 24:24 "...The Lord our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey."

## Synopsis

### Three 40 year periods

Moses was 40 years old when he left Egypt. Moses spends 40 years as a shepherd, tending Jethro's flocks, Moses returns to Egypt to free Hebrews from slavery. Moses spends 40 years in the wilderness.

Moses was a Hebrew. His entire family was in slavery. When all Hebrew baby boys were condemned to die, Moses' mother hid him in a basket on the Nile River. The Pharaoh of Egypt was King. When Pharaoh's daughter found Moses, she kept him. Moses grew up as a prince in Egypt.

The day came that a taskmaster was beating a Hebrew slave, and Moses killed the Egyptian taskmaster.

Depending on the age of your child, this story may take a few days to tell and to spend time discussing.

Read the Bible Story

Moses faces his limitations.

- In Moses youth, he had a dream to be the deliverer to his people. He thought his people would understand this when he killed the Egyptian taskmaster. They did not. Read Acts 7:25.

## Moses offers up excuses

God tells Moses of His plan through a flaming bush; Exodus 3:1-6

God calls Moses to fulfill this youthful ambition, only to hear excuses such as;

Gods' purpose is stated: Exodus 3:10  
"...I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

- "Who am I and will You be with me?"
- "Who shall I say sent me?"
- "Suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice?"
- "Lord, I have never been eloquent."

Through the Bible, God tells us what to believe and how to live a happy life.

Moses had objections, God had promises:

God becomes angry with Moses, and so Aaron is sent with Moses as the spokesman.

- God promised Moses that He would go with him.
- God told Moses that He was the eternal, ever-present One. "I AM WHO I AM."
- God gave Moses three miracles to perform to prove that God had sent him.
- God reminded Moses that He was the creator. God promised that He would be Moses' mouth, and teach him what to say.

## Do You Make Excuses?

Review the Ten Commandments.

Review the Ten Commandments. These are the commandments that God wants each of us to live by.

Exodus 20:1-17

- Do you ever make excuses for not doing what you should?
- Do excuses make it all right to disobey God?

Jesus said, "if you know these things, happy are you if you do them." (John 13:17)

When you make the decision to obey the Word of God, you will then not be confused by what is right or wrong. You will know how to choose between good and evil, because you believe in God and you believe the Bible is the Word of God.

When you pray:

- Ask God to help you to trust in Him.
- Believe that He will.

## Lesson 3

# Jesus Obeyed God

*Bible Story:*

*Luke 4:14-22*

**Focus:**

- Jesus obeyed the Word of God exactly.

**Purpose:**

- The written Word of God never changes.
- God keeps His Word.
- The understanding of scripture will help direct you in choosing right from wrong.

**Memory Verse:**

Psalm 12:6 “The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.”

## Generate Interest

Before teaching this lesson, take the time to familiarize yourself with the following words;

- Scroll
- Synagogue
- Nazareth

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Scroll

Only clean animal skins (unclean animals such as a pig were not used) were used for writing scripture on. A scroll that was completely unrolled could be as long as 24 feet. A reed or metal pen and ink were used to write on the scroll. The scrolls which had the scriptures written on them were kept in the synagogue.

Synagogue

Synagogue means “to gather together”. This refers both to the people and the building. The people have been gathered together to meet in one place, the synagogue.

Nazareth

Jesus’ physical parents, Joseph and Mary, lived in Nazareth. They went to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. Jesus grew up in Nazareth.

## Synopsis

John 4:46-53

Jesus had been out performing many miracles. One day, while in Cana, a man from Capernaum asked Jesus to heal his son. Jesus was at least 25 miles away, and yet He did heal the boy. It was after this event that Jesus went to Nazareth, and he visited those gathered together in the Synagogue on the Sabbath.

Read the Bible Story

Keep in mind when you read and explain this story that:

- The people gathered in the synagogue had watched Jesus grow up.
- Those gathered, knew He was a carpenter and the son of a carpenter.
- They were aware of the miracles Jesus had performed in Jerusalem

The scroll that Jesus is handed to read is; Isaiah 61:1, 2.

What is the importance of this story?

- Jesus quotes Isaiah.
- This is a fulfillment of prophecy.
- Jesus tells those gathered in the Synagogue that He is the Son of God.
- Jesus obeyed God by keeping the Sabbath and reading the

Six aspects of Jesus' ministry:

Jesus announces His ministry and described six aspects of that ministry.

- Preach the gospel.
- Heal the brokenhearted.
- Preach deliverance to the captives.
- Recovery of sight to the blind.
- Set at liberty those who are oppressed.
- Preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

How did Jesus obey the Word of God?

- He kept the Sabbath.
- He fulfilled prophecy.

Hence, we now know that the words of the Bible are "pure" because they are the words of God. These words from the Bible tell us that Jesus is the Son of God. Only God can predict and bring to pass events of the future, Isaiah 61:1,2.

## Lesson 4

# Believe and Obey

*Bible Story:* Focus:  
*Acts 8:26-39*   ▪ Scripture can be explained.

### Purpose:

- Believe the word of God.
- Be a doer of the word of God.
- Take care of your Bible.

### Memory Verse:

John 14:23 “....If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;...”

## Generate Interest

Give an explanation of the following:

**Ethiopian Eunuch** - He was a man from Africa who held a very high position in the harem of the palace. He held a very important position with the Queen.

**Candace** - This is a generic term which means “Queen”

**Philip** - There are two Philip spoken of in the New Testament. The Philip in this story is “Philip the evangelist” or “deacon”. He was one of the seven men chosen to help the apostles. Philip had four daughters who helped to spread the gospel (Acts 21).

**Chariot** - Mentioned many times in the Bible, chariot was used for transportation and for war. A chariot looks like a cart with two wheels, and is pulled by horses.

## Synopsis

Christ has ascended to heaven. The Holy Spirit has been given on Pentecost. Persecution against the church in Jerusalem, began with the death of Stephen. Many left their homes and scattered through Jerusalem and Judea. Everywhere they (Christians) went, they told about Jesus Christ. Philip left Samaria. When Philip encountered the Ethiopian eunuch, he explained Christ and salvation to him.

Read the Bible Story

What is the significance of this story?

Isaiah 53:7, 8 - This is the scripture the Ethiopian was reading when he asked Philip for help.

- The Ethiopian read the Word of God.
- He asked for an explanation of God’s Word.
- After Philip explained the Word of God, the Ethiopian believed the word of God.
- The Ethiopian desired to show his love for God by obeying Him.

### Talk It Over

Emphasize with your children how important the Word of God is. It is imperative that they treasure His Word and take care of their Bible.