

Winter Quarter Theme: Driven to Occupy

Student Lesson

The Basics: Knowing and Understanding the New Testament

Key Verse:

2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

Introduction

As we have one week of our 21-day consecration behind us, we want to use this time for God to renew and restore us. We want to continue our journey with a God start. We are continuing to take time to ensure we have a good and solid foundation. As we go through our 21-day devotional, we are ensuring that our foundation is unmovable. We are continuing to strengthen our relationship with God by gaining a basic understanding of the Word of God. As God communicates through his Word, and as we learn how to listen to God, we as children of God will grow in our relationship with him. Today's Sunday School lesson will focus us on getting back to the basics with an emphasis on the New Testament.

I. The Structure of the Bible

The Bible consists of two major sections – the Old and the New Testament. Provided last week was a diagram of the Old and the New testament. This week the same structure breakdown will be added for both the Old and the New Testament but our focus today will be on the New Testament in Sunday School.

Last week we learned that the word testament means an agreement, and these are the agreements between God and His people.

There are 27 books and 5 major groupings/divisions within the New Testament.

The five major divisions of the New Testament: (refer to structure diagram)

- 1. The Gospels (Matthew through John)**
- 2. The History (Book of Acts)**
- 3. The Pauline Epistles (Romans through Philemon)**
- 4. The General Epistles (Hebrews through Jude)**
- 5. The Prophecy (Book of Revelation)**

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II. Purpose of the New Testament in the Bible

The stated purpose of the New Testament is to create belief in the reader that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Those who believe this message have life through His name. More specifically the claim of the New Testament is there is only God and only one way to get to the one God - through Jesus Christ. The New Testament is God the Father's personal revelation of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. That Jesus was no ordinary man, wisdom-teacher or religious figure! He was God manifested in the flesh...

I Tim. 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

Two areas of purpose for the New Testament are:

- 1. The New Testament is a Witness**
- 2. The New Testament is a Call to Repentance**

III. Facts about the Bible

Here are some fun facts about the Bible overall and specific to the New Testament. Take time to learn the order of the New Testament. Use the structure diagram that is provided at the end of the lesson.

- **The Bible is a collection of 66 books**
- **There are about 40 authors over a period of 1500 years**
- **The Bible's Authors were from various backgrounds (to include):**
 - Priests, Prophets, Leaders, Fishermen, Physician, etc.
- **The New Testament has 27 books**
- **New Testament is the covenant of grace through Jesus Christ**
- **There are 1,189 chapters in the entire Bible.**
- **There are 31,373 verses in the Bible.**
- **The New Testament was written in Greek**
- **Longest New Testament book is the book of Luke**

Conclusion

The New Testament specifically is a witness of God's incredible love for the human race and His wonderful plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. Combined with the Old Testament, the New Testament, then, becomes our "Instruction Book" for eternal life.

Proverbs 3:13 "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

The Structure of the Bible



Old Testament				New Testament	
Law	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Major Prophets	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Gospels	Matthew Mark Luke John
	History		Minor Prophets		Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
Pauline Epistles		Romans 1-2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1-2 Thessalonians 1-2 Timothy Titus Philemon			
		General Epistles		Hebrews James 1-2 Peter 1-3 John Jude	
Wisdom	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon		Revelation of Jesus Christ		