

READ: Exodus 34:27-28

ASK: Who wrote the commandments this time? (Moses)

When man wrote down exactly what God told them to write, it was called inspiration. This word means to be breathed by God (READ: II Timothy 3:16). Around two thousand years ago, God completed the writing of His Word; it was finished shortly after Jesus went back to Heaven to prepare a place to live for everyone who has believed on Him.

III. WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO WITH THE BIBLE

God wanted Moses to do certain things with the writings He had given Moses.

READ: Exodus 34:31-32

ASK: What did Moses do with the commandments? (He read them to the Israelites.)

READ: Deuteronomy 5:31

ASK: What did God want Moses to do with His commandments? (Teach them to others.)

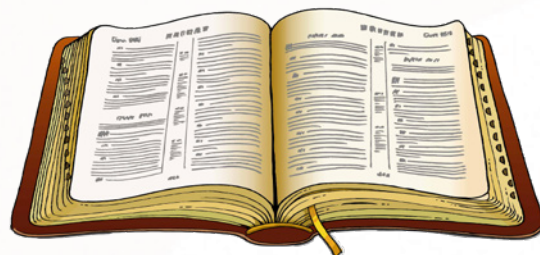
READ: Deuteronomy 11:18-21

ASK: What did God want Moses and the Israelites to do with His Word? (Memorize it - verse 18; Teach it - verse 19; Write it down - verse 20.)

God's people were given the tasks of copying and distributing (publishing) God's Word to the entire world! This was the beginning of our printed Bible that we bring with us to church today!

CONCLUSION

God wanted His Word written down in a book in order for mankind to know about Him. That book is called the Bible. Would you take a few moments and thank God for giving you a Bible? Ask Him to help you understand it as you read its pages. Ask God to teach you more about Him and to help you to tell others about Him.



TEASER FOR NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

So, how did the recorded words of God make it through all of those years without getting destroyed? God has made it very clear for thousands of years that He wants everyone to know His Word forever. In the next lesson, we'll learn how the God of the universe has protected His Word in order for us to have it today!

LESSON DEFINITIONS

COMPLETE: Having all of the necessary parts.

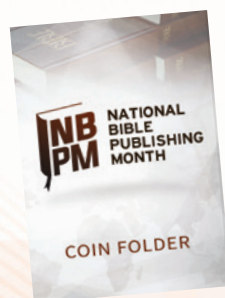
DISTRIBUTE: To give something out.

INSPIRED: Breathed by God.

PRESERVE: To maintain something in its original state.

PUBLISH: To prepare and issue a work for others; to take forth a message.

TABLES: A tablet; a surface on which anything is written or engraved.



COIN FOLDER BOOKLETS!



Q. God has provided His Word for you and me, but what can we do in order for other boys and girls to know about Jesus too?

A. Get quarters to fill up the NBPM coin folders! You can ask for them from family (Mom, Dad, Grandparents, Uncle Larry, Aunt Betsy), hunt for them under the couch cushions, or take them from your piggy bank. However, the best way to get quarters is to earn them. Ask your mom or dad if you can do some "odd jobs" around the house. Let them know you are trying to earn money so the people in other countries can have a Bible. This year, we are sending Bibles to India, Guyana, Poland, and Liberia! Remember, for every ten quarters you give, you can help Bearing Precious Seed print a Bible for someone who doesn't yet have one!

GOD PROVIDES His WORD!





LESSON ONE

GOD PROVIDES HIS WORD!

KEY VERSES

1 Peter 1:23-25

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Each student will realize that God wants everyone to know about Him and that His Word is so important. He had it written in a book.

TEACHER'S GUIDE NOTES

"Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40). Our God is a God of order. At creation, not only was everything that exists created, but it was then inspected by God Himself. His opinion upon inspection was "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). God's attention to every detail is unquestionable! God thought it important enough to even tell us that things which happen unorganized, chaotically, or with "confusion" are not authored by Him (1 Corinthians 14:33). Just read the instructions for the tabernacle and its contents (Exodus 25-27); everything from the materials to be used to even the exact dimensions of each item were exactly described by God. God was going to involve mankind in the process of producing and keeping that which was to be holy and revered.

With such a proven track record of His being meticulous and being careful for details, it is logical He would be the same way with His plans for handling His precious Word. He promised over and over He would preserve His Word from generation to generation, and His Word would not pass away, even though everything in heaven and earth will pass away. Does it not stand to reason that He would have a workable plan in place for mankind to continue to be involved with the producing of and care for that which is Holy? These lessons will begin to reveal the foundation laid by God for His plan in handling and preserving His Word.

The primary thought of this lesson is that God wanted to reveal information about Himself throughout every generation of mankind. This information needed to be accurate; after all, it was describing God Himself. Using man as the instrument to convey His thoughts, He accomplished the task in three steps: orally, inspirationally, and educationally.

ILLUSTRATION

God spoke His Word - Telephone:

Illustrate God speaking His Word by playing the game Telephone. Begin the game by whispering a message into the ear of one of your students. That student will then turn and whisper the message they heard into the ear of the student sitting next to them. This continues until the last student hears the message. At this point, the last student tells the whole class what was whispered to him/her. Most of the time, the message will be far different than the original message.

Now repeat the game, but this time write a message on paper and hand it to the student next to you. That student should rewrite the message on a small piece of paper and hand it to the student next to them. This continues until the last student writes the message. Then have them read it to the class. This time, the message should be exactly the same as what was given to the first student. This simple game illustrates the importance of the written Word of God. If copied correctly, God's Word should be the same today as when God gave it to Moses.

INTRODUCTION

TEACHER NOTE: In the beginning, God's means of communicating His desires to and for man was spoken. In creation, He spoke His desires into existence from nothing. In the affairs of mankind, God came and spake with them. As time went on, God altered His chosen method of communication. He began to give man everything He desired them to know in writing. His written Word was then taken to the people in order for them to hear, read, and understand for themselves what God desired to communicate.

"You have my word on it." Have you ever heard someone say that to you? When someone gives you their "word," it means they promise that whatever they said is the truth.

Sometimes people will break their word because we all still make mistakes, but with God, it is different. When God gives His Word, it is the absolute truth! God never makes a mistake! God promises that His Word will be preserved forever! Psalm 119:89 says, "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Today, in English we have the complete Bible; a written down copy of God's Word! That's why preachers and teachers sometimes refer to the Bible as God's Word. Did you know that people have lived on the Earth for over 6,000 years? People didn't always have a printed Bible as we do today, but they still had God's words in a different form.

LESSON ONE

I. GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD

In the beginning, God's words actually created the entire Universe!

READ: Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29

ASK: How did God create or make things? (God spoke, and it came into existence.) God even spoke out loud to the early people of Earth.

READ: Genesis 6:13-14, 22; 7:5

ASK: How did God let Noah know how to make the ark? (He spoke, or commanded Noah.)

He told Noah how to build the ark that would save mankind from destruction. God even spoke directly to Abraham about the family he would have (READ: Genesis 12:1, 4). All of these people were then required to tell others what they had been told by God so God's Word would not be forgotten.

II. THE START OF THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD

About 3,000 years ago, God actually wrote His words down for the very first time.

READ: Exodus 24:12

ASK: How did God give the commandments? (He wrote them.)

Then, shortly after that, God started having His people write down His Word so others would be able to read it and hear it. Moses, at one point, provided some stone tables, and God did the writing. Later on, men of God provided all of the materials, and also used their own hands to write down exactly what God told them to write.

