Vineyard Labourer Bible College

Bible Study Module 1

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. . . .”
James 1:5

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do . . . “
John 14:13

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth . . .”
John 16:13

“Search the scriptures . . . and they are they which testify of me.”
John 5:39

“All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God . . .“
2 Timothy 3:16

“Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given.”
Steps to Christ by E. White, page 91 para 1.

http://www.vineyardlabourer.info/biblecollege.html

Vineyard Labourer Bible College Training for the Christian Walk
1a - THE BIBLE -
THE DIVINE REVELATION OF TRUTH

1. Throughout history mankind has been searching for truth.
   - John 18: 38. Even Pilate's question gives an illustration of man's desire for truth. But he is not alone because throughout history many different people and scholars have been searching for a greater knowledge.

2. Because of sin man can never understand truth without divine help.
   - 1 Cor. 2:14. Truth is spiritually discerned.
   - Gen. 3:22, 23. Disobedience caused man to be separated from God.
   - Isa. 59:2. Iniquities separate us from God.
   - Job 11:7 - 9. Can man of himself ever find the truth about God?
   - Rom. 11:33. God's ways are beyond human understanding.
   - Eccl. 8:17. Man will never be able to find out all of God's works.

3. If man is to know what is truth, it can only come from the One who is the source of all truth.
   - 1 Cor. 2:11. Who comprehends the things of God?
   - John 14:6. Only One possesses truth. He says, "I am the way."
   - Dan. 2:28. God is a revealer of secrets.
   - Amos 3:7. God reveals His secrets to His messengers.
   - 1 Cor. 2:7 - 10. God reveals by His Spirit what the great men of earth cannot understand.
   - John 14:16, 17, 26. Who was sent to reveal truth?

4. This Divine Source, God, has given mankind the Bible which is all truth.
   - Eph. 1:17. Paul calls this truth the spirit of wisdom.
   - John 6:35. Calls this source the bread of life.
   - 2 Tim. 2:15. Called the Word of Truth.
   - John 17:17. "Thy Word is truth."
   - Rev. 1:1, 2. The Bible is a revelation of Jesus Christ.
   - Rev. 21:5. The words are true and faithful.
   - Ps. 119:160. The word is true from the beginning.

5. The Bible is the everlasting word and contains all truth.
   - Ps. 100:5. His mercy is everlasting and His truth endureth. (1 Peter 1:24, 25.)
   - 2 Cor. 13:8. We can do nothing against the truth.
   - 2 Tim. 3:16. His truth is for instruction in righteousness.
   - John 10:35. The Scripture cannot be broken.

6. If we are to understand what God has written for us it will not be by human wisdom but by a study of the Scriptures with the aid of the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the answers.
   - 2 Tim. 2:15. Study the Word to show yourself approved.
Acts 17:10, 11. The truth when studied will reveal whether it be so.
Prov. 2:3, 4. We are to search for truth as if it was a priceless gem.

"To Adam and Eve nature was teeming with divine wisdom. But by transgression man was cut off from learning of God through direct communion and, to a great degree, through His works. The earth, marred and defiled by sin, reflects but dimly the Creator's glory. It is true that His object lessons are not obliterated. Upon every page of the great volume of His created works may still be traced His handwriting. Nature still speaks of her Creator. Yet these revelations are partial and imperfect. And in our fallen state, with weakened powers and restricted vision, we are incapable of interpreting aright. We need the fuller revelation of Himself that God has given in His written word." Ed. page 17.

"Apart from Christ we are still incapable of interpreting rightly the language of nature. The most difficult and humiliating lesson that man has to learn is his own inefficiency in depending upon human wisdom, and the sure failure of his efforts to read nature correctly. Of himself he cannot interpret nature without placing it above God. He is in a condition similar to that of the Athenians, who, amidst their altars, dedicated to the worship of nature, had one inscribed, 'To the unknown God.' God was indeed unknown to them. He is unknown to all who, without the guidance of the Divine Teacher, take up the study of nature. They will assuredly come to wrong conclusions." T.8. page 257.

Questions on the Lesson
1. What question did Pilate ask Jesus? What desire of humanity did he express in this question?
2. Why is it impossible for finite man to discover truth?
3. What did Solomon and Paul have to say about the futility of human wisdom?
4. How did Job respond to man understanding the wisdom of God?
5. What is the only answer that man can give to the question, "What is truth?"
6. Where can truth be found? Where is the proof that God does make it known?
7. Who will teach us the things of God?
8. How has God made truth accessible to man? What names are given to the Bible?
9. State the attributes of truth possessed by Scripture?
10. Is it possible to understand God and nature of ourselves? How did Paul explain it to Timothy?
11. Which people were commended for their study of the Word, and why? How are we to regard the truth of the Bible?
12. Tell how nature can be a revealer of truth.
13. What is the most difficult lesson for man to learn? Why is it so difficult?

MEMORISE:
2. T.8. page 285. "Only that which He sees fit to reveal can we comprehend of Him. Reason must acknowledge an authority superior to itself. Heart and intellect must bow to the great I AM."

For Further Study
1. Is God revealed in any other way than through His Word? Give texts.
2. Why is it that so many will not accept the Bible as a divine revelation?
3. Give some illustrations of man's quest for truth apart from God.
4. How is it that many of the most brilliant men fail to understand the Bible correctly?
5. If the Bible were just the views of its writers would it still be the Word of Truth?
6. Has reason any place in Bible study?
7. How is God's love shown in this lesson?
1b - THE BIBLE IS TRUE

1. The Bible differs from all other books in the following ways:

I. In Its Claims.
   - 2 Tim. 3:16.
   - Dr. James H. Brooks estimates that the phrase "Thus saith the Lord," or its equivalent, is used in the Old Testament, 2,000 times. Doing a search on a Bible computer program it was found that the phrase "Thus saith the Lord" was used 430 times, "God said" 476 times, and "the Lord said" 990 times in the Old Testament.

II. In Its Authorship.
   - John 14:29.
   - Did you know that the Bible is the most fascinating Book to be found on earth? Unerringly it has foretold the destiny of people, the future of cities, and of the world's greatest nations. This Book has foreseen the future with such amazing accuracy that it astounds even the most sceptical reader.
   - Few people realize that the Bible is really a library containing sixty-six books - thirty-nine in the Old Testament, written before Christ came to this earth. Some of these books are small, and some are large. Your Bible took sixteen hundred years to compile - from 1500 BC to AD 100 - and was written by some thirty-five authors. How could these different men, living in different times of earth's history, write in absolute harmony one with the other? Such harmony exists that their message agree in the most minute detail. There can be but one logical explanation. Each man was told what he should write. This is exactly what your Bible says did happen, and you can prove this for yourself in just a moment.
   - God who inspired the writing of the Bible puts Himself on trial when He throws out this challenge: "And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe." John 14:29. Could God be fairer than this? The word "Bible" means "the Book," and what a wonderful Book it is. As you study this lesson, you will marvel at God's foreknowledge, and you will understand why this amazing Book is still the world's best-seller. You will gain a new confidence as you see for yourself that there is an almighty God who is guiding this universe, this world, and you.

III. In Its Standards.
   - The Bible standard of life and morals is inestimably superior to that of any other systems. Not only does it present us with a perfect moral code (Rom. 7: 12), but it also presents us with a perfect life as our example. (1 Peter 2: 21, 22.) No other book has ever been able to do this.

IV. In Its Power.
   - Ps. 33:6, 9. He commanded and it stood fast.
   - Luke. 4:32. His word was with power.

2. This remarkable uniqueness of the Bible is accounted for by the fact of its inspiration. It came from God.

   - 2 Tim. 3:16. All Scripture is inspired.
   - John 10:35. Christ regarded the Scripture as a divine whole, not as merely partially inspired.
   - "Inspiration." The word comes from two Greek words, theos (God), and pnein (to breathe). Therefore Scripture is a God-breathed word. That is, it is as much the word of God as though God had spoken it with His own breath.
• 2 Peter 1:20, 21. Holy men spoke "as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The Spirit urged, moved, actuated, influenced, guided men to write every word just as God intended it should be written.
• 2 Sam. 23:2. David an illustration of inspiration.
• T.5. page 747 para. 1. A wonderful union of divinity and humanity.

3. Inspiration of the Bible is not a theory but a fact. A realization of this fact will have a vast influence upon our attitude towards the Bible, and consequently upon our lives.

• 1 Thess. 2:13. We shall receive the Bible not as a human book, "but as it is in truth, the Word of God."
• 2 Tim. 3:15. The special wisdom which it imparts.
• 2 Tim. 3:16, 17. The uses of Scripture.
• Ps. 119:11. Able to keep us from sin.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How does the Bible differ from other books?
2. What sort of moral code does the Bible offer?
3. In what way does the Bible show the power of its author?
4. How much of the Bible is God's Word?
5. How did men of God in the past understand what to write?
6. In what way are we to accept the Bible?

MEMORISE:

• 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.
• G.C. page vii. "The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, the test of experience."

For Further Study

1. Write the difference between the expressions, "The Bible is the Word of God" and "The Bible contains the Word of God."
2. Copy T.6. page 393 para. 3.
3. Can we depend upon the actual words of Scripture? Isa. 1:2; Jer. 1:7, 9; Eze. 2:7; 3:4; Mark 12:36; Luke 1:70.
4. Give an example of the transforming power of the Bible.
1c - THE SCRIPTURES AND HOW TO STUDY THEM

1. The Bible differs from all other book because little benefit is gained from a hasty reading. One may read the whole Bible through, and yet fail to see its beauty or comprehend its deep and hidden meaning.
   - John 5:39. What did Jesus have to say concerning the study of the Bible?
   - Acts 17:11. The Bereans were commended for what reason?

2. How not to misunderstood the Bible.
   - 1 Cor. 2:11. Who alone can understand the things of God?
   - 1 Cor. 2:14,15. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned

3. What Spiritual attributes must one acquire to gain a better understanding of God’s word?
   1. **Conversion.**
      - John 3:1-12. Nicodemus could not understand because he was unconverted. See D.A. page 171 para. 1.
   2. **Consecration.**
      - John 7:17. God communicates His knowledge to him who seeks for it with a consecrated spirit.
      - Jer. 29:13. You will find God when you search for Him will all your heart.
   3. **Humility.**
      - Isa. 57:15. God dwells with the humble.
      - 1 S.M. page 359 para. 2. A humble and teachable spirit necessary.
      - Ed. 189 para. 1. Our purpose in study.
   4. **Prayerfulness.**
      - James 1:5. God's promise.
      - Dan. 9:2, 22. Daniel prayed for understanding.
      - S.C. page 91 para. 1. Bible never to be studied without prayer.
      - G.C. page 521 para. 2. Dangerous to study Bible without prayer.

4. The time spent studying God’s word should never be underestimated, We need to be of the right Spirit and spend faithful time with the Bible.
   - G.C. page 599 para. 1. Exert all the powers of the mind.
   - 2 Tim. 2:15. Paul's advice to a young worker.

5. We should use the method of interpretation that God gave when we study the Bible.
1. Scripture must be allowed to interpret scripture. Isa. 28:10, 13; 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.
2. Symbols are to be interpreted by literal language. Dan. 7:17.
3. Statements of Scripture must not be given meaning contrary to their context. Matt. 4:5-7.
   (compare Ps. 91:11, 12).

Questions on the Lesson

1. What consideration should lead us to approach the study of the Bible differently from other books?
2. Who searched the scriptures daily?
3. What is inadequate for an understanding of the Bible?
4. What is the primary requirement for Bible study? Why?
5. State the four attributes of spirituality, emphasizing from Scripture the importance of each.
6. Why is it dangerous to study the Bible in a wrong spirit?
7. Why did Christ not immediately answer the queries of Nicodemus?
8. Apart from spirituality, what is necessary for proper understanding of the Word of God?
9. How is the importance of Bible study stressed by Jesus? By Paul?
10. How should any passage of Scripture be interpreted? Give three guiding principles of interpretation.

MEMORISE:

- S.C. page 91. "Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given."

For Further Study

2. Why we should study the Bible? Give reasons.
3. Can you suggest different methods of Bible study.
1. The Bible is given as a book of salvation. Its main purpose is to reveal God's plan of redemption. The central theme of the Scriptures is to give a revelation of Jesus Christ. It's not given to us merely to supply us with information concerning the past, nor as a book of science, or even as a book of morals. But to acquaint us with the One who paid the price for us.

- 1 Peter 1:10, 11. The prophets searched the Scriptures for a knowledge of the plan of salvation.
- Acts 4:12. This salvation centres in Christ.
- John 1:45. Moses and the prophets wrote of Christ.
- Luke 24:27, 44. All the Scriptures bear witness of Christ.

2. In the Old Testament Christ was called by many names.

- Num. 24:17. A Star out of Jacob and a Sceptre.
- Deut. 18:15, 18. A prophet.
- Isa. 9:6. Mighty God, etc.
- Jer. 23:5, 6. The Lord our Righteousness.
- Dan. 7:13. The Son of man.
- Zech. 6:12, 13. The Branch.

3. Some experiences in the Old Testament history are revelations of Christ and His salvation.

- Gen. 3:21; 4:3, 4. The Lamb offering.
- John 3:14,15. The uplifted serpent.
- 1 Cor. 10:4. The smitten rock.

4. The ceremonial system typified Christ.

- 1 Cor. 5:7. The Passover.
- Col. 2:16, 17. A shadow of things to come.

5. Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of the Scriptures.

- Rev. 22:13. I am Alpha and Omega.
- Gen. 3:15. The first prophecy in the Old Testament concerns Christ.
- Rev. 22:20. The Bible closes with the promise of Christ's return.
Questions on the Lesson

1. What is the primary purpose of the Bible? How does this primary purpose make Christ the central theme of Scripture?
2. Prove from Scripture that the whole Bible is a revelation of Christ.
3. Supply, with references, at least ten titles used of Christ in the Old Testament.
4. How do the following experiences reveal Christ: the brazen serpent, the rock in the wilderness, the experience of Jonah?
5. What was the earliest typical observance of Christ?
6. How did the Passover point to Christ?
7. What do you understand by Christ being called the Alpha and the Omega?
8. Which is the first prophecy in the Bible? the last?
9. Summarize the different ways in which Christ is revealed in Scripture.

MEMORISE:

- G.W. page 250. "The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ."

For Further Study

1. Copy the statement in C.O.L. page 126 para. 3.
2. What themes will be studied through all eternity? C.O.L. pages 133 para. 4; 134 para. 1.
3. What is the most important discovery one can make in the study of the Bible?
1e - THE GODHEAD

1. Having a correct knowledge of God is of vital importance.
   - John 17:3. Christ prayed that we might know God.
   - 1 John 5:19, 20. Christ came to reveal the Father.

2. In our search for truth we must be very careful that we don't engage in speculative theories about God. It is impossible for the finite mind to understand God.
   - Deut. 29:29. We can know only what God's Word reveals to us.
   - M.H. page 429 para. 1. "The revelation of Himself that God has given in His Word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate. The highest intellect may tax itself until it is wearied out in conjectures regarding the nature of God, but the effort will be fruitless. This problem has not been given us to solve. No human mind can comprehend God. None are to indulge in speculation regarding His nature. Here silence is eloquence. The Omniscient One is above discussion."

3. The Godhead consists of Three Persons.
   - 1 John 5:7. The Father, the Word, the Holy Ghost.
     (For information about Erasmus's work read G.C. page 245.)
   - John 1:1, 14. The Word which is Christ is also God.

4. But although there are Three Persons in the Godhead, there are not three Gods for "these three are one."
   - Deut. 6:4. One Lord.
   - John 10:30. Christ and the Father are one.
   - M.H. page 422 para. 1. "The unity that exists between Christ and His disciples does not destroy the personality of either. They are one in purpose, in mind, in character, but not in person. It is thus that God and Christ are one."

5. The Father is the First Person of the Godhead.
   - 1 Tim. 1:17. Eternal, immortal, invisible.

6. The Son is the Second Person of the Godhead.
   - John 1:1, 2. Existed in the beginning with God.
   - Heb. 1:8 - 10. The Father calls Him God.
• Matt. 1:23. Became Emmanuel (God with us).
• Rev. 3:21. Is now on God's throne.

7. **The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead.**

- Gen. 1:2. Existed in the beginning.
- A.A. page 52 para. 1. "The nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it to them. Men having fanciful views may bring together passages of Scripture and put a human construction on them; but the acceptance of those views will not strengthen the church. Regarding such mysteries, which are to deep for human understanding, silence is golden."

**Questions on the Lesson**

1. What knowledge did Christ come to give? What prayer did He offer for us?
2. How are we limited in our knowledge of God? What warning is given us in the Spirit of prophecy?
3. What do we mean by the Godhead? Give three evidence that there are Three separate and distinct Persons.
4. How many "Gods" do we worship?
5. In what sense are Christ and the Father one?
6. What is the order of the Persons of the Godhead?
7. What three adjectives describe the nature of the Father?
8. What is revealed as to the existence of the Son? How does the Father address the Son?
9. Did the Son continue to be God when He came to earth? Did He retain His humanity when He returned to heaven?
10. What is the earliest mention given of the Spirit? How is His nature described?
11. What names are given to the Third Person of the Godhead?

**MEMORISE:**

- T. 8. page 279. "The revelation of Himself that God has given in His Word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate."

**For Further Study**

1. How does the Godhead differ from all other orders of beings?
2. Name the orders of created beings.
3. What do we mean by omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence?
1f - THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT

1. God is our Creator and King, and His kingdom embraces the universe.
   - Isa. 43:15. Because God is our Creator He is our rightful King.
   - Ps. 103:19. The extent of His dominion.
   - Jer. 10:10. The duration of His rulership.

2. Because of the character of our King, His government is perfectly just and right.
   - Deut. 32:3, 4. A God of truth and without iniquity.
   - Ps. 97:2; 89:14. The character of God's government.

3. The Foundation of God's government is His law.
   - Exo. 25:21, 22; 26:34; 30:6; 40:20. By looking at the Ark of the Covenant in the earthly Sanctuary we can see what God's throne and therefore His government is built upon. The Mercy Seat represents God's throne, which sat above God's Law in the Ark.
   - T. 1. page 342 para. 2. Satan's war commenced against the foundation of God's government, God's law.
   - Eccl. 12:13, 14. Man's duty to his King is to "keep His commandments."
   - Ex. 31:18. First spoken by God, then written by God.
   - James 2:10, 11. Full obedience is required.
   - Ps. 103:20. The angels are required to keep the commandments.
   - 1 John 3:4. To transgress God's law is to commit sin.
   - James 2:12. God will judge us by the law.

4. The law cannot be changed and like the government of God is everlasting.
   - Mal. 3:6. God is unchangeable.
   - Ps. 111:7, 8. Therefore His law is eternal.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How is God revealed in the first verse of the Bible? Because of this, what position of authority does He occupy?
2. What is the extent of God's dominion? How long will His kingdom last?
3. How is the character of our heavenly King described? What is said of His government?
4. How does Solomon express man's duty to his divine King?
5. Locate the Ten Commandments. Can you recite them from memory?
6. How were the Ten Commandments given?
7. Show that God requires full obedience to His law. What do we do when we transgress it?
8. What is said of the relation of the angels to God's law?
9. What shows that the law is binding for all time?
10. Prove that God's law is unchangeable.

**MEMORISE:**

- P.P. page 52. "The law of God is as sacred as Himself. It is a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, the expression of divine love and wisdom."

**For Further Study**

1. Could God be ruler of the universe without law?
2. Divide the Ten Commandments into two groups.
1g - REVERENCE

1. From our previous study we have learned a little of the infinite and unsearchable character of the Godhead. The Scriptures reveal the greatness and holiness of our God.

- Isa. 55:8, 9. God is infinitely superior to man. We cannot understand Him by human comparisons.
- Ps. 139:1-12. God's omniscience and omnipresence.
- 1 Tim. 6:15. The superiority of His authority.
- Isa. 6:3. His holiness.

2. The infinite greatness and holiness of God should inspire our hearts with a sacred awe and reverence. God expects this of all His children.

- Rev. 14:7. Fear God and give glory to Him.
- Ps. 89:6, 7. God to be feared and reverenced.

3. Especially are we to maintain a reverent spirit when coming into the presence of God.

- Ex. 3:1-6. Moses at the burning bush.
- Ps. 95:6. Our attitude in prayer.
- Dan. 6:10. Daniel's example.
- Matt. 18:20. We should recognize Christ's presence.

4. We are to treat All that Belongs to God and His service with reverence and respect.

1. **God's name**. Ps. 111:9; Mal. 1:11.
2. **God's Book**. 2 Tim. 3:15.
3. **God's house**. Lev. 19:30; Hab. 2:20; Eccl. 5:1; Isa. 56:7.
4. **God's day**. Ex. 20:8-11; Eze. 20:20.
5. **God's money**. Lev. 27:30-33.

**Questions on the Lesson**

1. How does Isaiah express the infinite superiority of God over man?
2. How does the Psalmist speak of God's omniscience? of His omnipresence? What expressions describe His authority?
3. What attribute of God do the angels stress?
4. How should the thought of God affect us? What is our acceptable service?
5. What call to reverence is contained in the first angel's message in Revelation 14? What does the Psalmist say should be our attitude towards God?
6. On what occasions is reverence especially appropriate? Give illustrations to prove.
7. What things should be treated with reverence and respect? Give scriptures to substantiate your answer.
8. When will true reverence be manifested?
9. Give some thoughts from Psalm 95 on how we are to approach God.

MEMORISE:

- Lev. 19:30.
- P.K. page 49. "Holy and reverend is His name," the Psalmsist declares. Angels when they speak that name, veil their faces. With what reverence, then, should we, who are fallen and sinful, take it upon our lips!"

For Further Study

2. How is true reverence cultivated? Ed. page 242 para. 3.
3. Study Psalm 95 on how to approach God.
4. Spirit of Prophecy Reading: Ed. pages 242-245.