

“TFT Bible Class will equip you with Christain values, principles and doctrines with the aim of transforming you to become an effective disciple in the ministry of Christ.”



TOPIC 1.4

NAVIGATING THE BIBLE AS A SOURCE OF OUR FAITH

THE KEY LEARNING OUTCOME:

- Create an awareness of how the books of the Bible are compiled, structured and the core message they contain.
- Enable the students to be able to navigate the Bible easier.

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Bibles are more accessible today. Millions of Bibles continue to be printed, sold or given every year; and even better they are now accessible and downloadable on our cell phones. The Bible (Word of God) is both a source and a critical resource for our faith, because without the bible it becomes difficult for us to communicate with God.

The Bible also serves as a GPS or road signs. Think about when you want to go somewhere; unless you know the place because you have been there before, you will never reach your destination if you do not have a GPS or follow the road signs. The same applies to the Bible we need to know where how to navigate it to find scriptures that will guide us in every area of our lives as Christians.

The Bible is divided into two testaments, the Old and the New Testament. The Old Testament contains 39 books, and the New Testament has 27 books. Within these books of the Bible are lessons, tools and scripture that speak to every area of our lives and to every situation we face and will ever face in future. We need to read the Bible intentionally and with the right perspective, so that even when you are under stress or grief, you know which scriptures to look for. And with profound respect and reverence to God, be willing to believe and follow what He says.

WHERE TO START?

• **Prayer for Understanding**

Before reading your Bible, it is essential to pray for understanding. Asking the Holy Spirit to guide you is crucial. In Psalm 119:33, Jeremiah 9:23-24, and Proverbs 3:5-8, we find scripture that emphasizes the importance of relying on God for knowledge and understanding.

• **Keep an Open Mind**

Keeping an open mind is another critical component of studying the Bible. Acts 17:11 emphasizes the importance of examining scripture with an open mind and eagerness. Having an open mind will assist you to admit when we are wrong, and being willing to change is vital.

• **Humble yourself, Seek Instruction and Correction**

Being teachable and seeking instruction and correction is also vital. Isaiah 66:1-2 and Romans 8:6-9 urge us to approach the Bible with humility and a willingness to learn.

• **Accepting Inspiration from the Word**

Accepting the inspiration of the Word is critical because God is speaking to us directly through His Word, the Bible. 2 Peter 1:21, Philippians 2:5, and John 6:63 emphasize this point.

- **Plan and Make Time for Studying the Bible**

Finally, planning time for studying is important. Ephesians 5:15-17 emphasizes the importance of making the most of our time, and that includes setting aside time for studying the Bible.

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

- The Bible is essential for our spiritual growth because it is both inspired and breathed by God, as we read in 2 Timothy 3:16 and Hebrews 4:12.
- It is vital to meditate on the Word and live according what we have learned from it, as Joshua 1:8 instructs us. And if we do this, the scripture promises us that we shall prosper in all we do.

Joshua 1:8

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have a good success."

- It is essential to read the Bible with an understanding of God's Word, as Proverbs 3:7 and Isaiah 5:21 make clear. We must not be wise in our own eyes, but instead, we must fear the Lord and shun evil.
- The Word of God is a lamp unto our feet as Psalm 119:105 says, thus it provides light even through darkness. We need this light which is the Word of God.
- Psalm 119:5 declares that we will not be put to shame when we abide by God's commands.
- We need the Word of God to grow spiritually. As 1 Peter 2:2 explains, like a newborn baby who sincerely desires and craves for milk, we too, should desire and crave the Word of God which will nourish our spiritual man.

Thus, the Word of God is life, and we cannot do without it. It is a basic need, similar to the Maslow's explanation of the hierarchy of needs.

Therefore, when we intentionally read this Word of God and take it as a basic need for our Spiritual Growth, we will not fall into the snares of false teachings by false prophets. Their false teachings are like toxic food, whereas the Word of God is like organic and healthy food for us.

- The Bible is also like a weapon of warfare, as Ephesians 6:10 indicates.
- In John 15:7, Jesus encourages to remain in Him and to have the Word of God abide in us, and He promises that He will abide in us.

We allow the Word of God to abide in us because the Word of God is unchanging and reliable, without error. Thus, by remaining in Him and in His Word, we are sure that the Author is always there with us as we read.

- As 2 Timothy 2:15 explains, we need to study the Word of God in order for us to be better equipped to carry out the work of the Lord.
- The Word of God imparts peace, as Psalm 119:165 makes clear; and in times of testing, the Word of God comforts us, as Psalms 119:50 illustrates.

CONCLUSION

Navigating the Bible is crucial for our spiritual growth and development. We need to approach the Bible with the right attitude and perspective. Praying for understanding, keeping an open mind, being teachable, accepting the inspiration of the Word, and planning time for studying are all essential elements of navigating the Bible successfully. As we grow in our knowledge and understanding of God's Word, we will find comfort, peace, and a deepening relationship.