



ANSWERS: Unit 4: Disciple of Christ

Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of God.

Lesson 12 **Why the Bible is Trustworthy**

Day One ***God's Word***

Read Matthew 4:4 and answer questions 1–4:

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

1. In addition to bread or food, what should people also live on?

Every word that comes from the mouth of God.

2. Where do people get all words that come from the mouth of God (See 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Hebrews 1:1–2)?

The Bible, Scripture, God's Word

Bible verses referenced in question 2:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Tim. 3:16-17

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. Hebrews 1:1–2

3. How are *you* living on every word that comes from the mouth of God?

Personal Answer

4. How are *you* discipling others to live *on every word that comes from the mouth of God*?

Personal Answer

Read Matthew 4:4 and answer questions 5–6:

Then he [Moses] took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey” Exodus 24:7

5. What book of the Bible contains the Book of the Covenant today?

Exodus, chapters 20–23.

6. From the people’s response, how did they view the Book of the Covenant, which is part our Bible today?

They viewed the Book of the Covenant as the Lord’s words which should be obeyed.

Apocryphal Books:

	Protestant Names	Roman Catholic Names
1	Tobit	Tobias
2	Judith	Judith
3	Wisdom of Solomon	Wisdom
4	Ecclesiasticus / Sirach	Ecclesiasticus
5	I Maccabees	I Maccabees
6	II Maccabees	II Maccabees
7	Baruch	Baruch 1–5
8	Epistle of Jeremiah	Baruch 6
9	Additions to Esther	Esther 10:4–16:24
10	Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men	Daniel 3:24–90
11	Susanna	Daniel 13
12	Bel and the Dragon	Daniel 14
13	I Esdras	3 Esdras (sometimes called I Esdras)
14	2 Esdras	4 Esdras (sometimes called 2 Esdras)
15	Prayer of Manasseh	Prayer of Manasseh

7. Does the Hebrew Bible canon accepted by Judaism, include or ever included any of the above apocryphal books? Yes No (Underline One)

8. Have you ever read any apocryphal books? Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

—End Day One—

Day Two

Recognized as the Word of God

8. In regard to the story of the monkey and the coconut above, what are you holding on to that keeps you from reading and applying God's Word daily?

Personal Answer

Five Principles for the Recognition and Collection Divine Scripture¹

(1) Was the book written by a prophet or spokesperson of God?

9. Read 1 Kings 8:56. Who gave Moses the words to speak, and were these words fulfilled?

"Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses" 1 Kings 8:56

The Lord gave Moses the words to speak to Israel and they were all fulfilled.

(2) Was the writer of the book confirmed by acts of God?

Read Exodus 9:20–24 and answer questions 10–13:

Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside. ²¹ But those who ignored the word of the LORD left their slaves and livestock in the field. ²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt—on people and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt" ²³ When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt; ²⁴ hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. Exodus 9:20–24

10. Who is speaking to Moses (v. 22a)?

The Lord, Yahweh, God

11. What did the Lord tell Moses to do (v. 22b)?

Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt—on people and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt.

¹ John McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999) 21–22. (Quoting Geisler/Nix, GIB, 223–231).

12. When Moses stretched out his hand with his staff toward the sky as the Lord told him, what happened (vv. 23–24)?

The Lord sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground in Egypt. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.

13. How would this miracle confirm Moses as a prophet of God?

The words Moses spoke and attributed to God were fulfilled and confirmed by a miracle, a supernatural act. No one but God has the ability to

(3) Did the message tell the truth about God?

14. Read Numbers 23:19. What is true about God that is not true about people?

God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Numbers 23:19

God does not lie or change His mind. When God speaks, He acts—He does what He says He will do. All of His promises are fulfilled and come to pass. People lie, change their minds, will say one thing and do another. People give promises and do not always keep them.

Read Mark 12:14 and answer questions 15–16:

They came to him and said, “Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?” Mark 12:14

15. In trying to trick Jesus by asking him a difficult question, these men make three statements about Jesus. No one in the crowd disagrees. What are these three statements of truth?

1. Jesus is a man of integrity (honest, reliable).
2. He is not swayed (manipulated or controlled) by others.
3. Teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.

16. What do you do when you are not sure about the truth of a statement or teaching about God?

Personal answer, but it is a good idea to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in all truth while searching the Bible for answers. One may also read commentaries or other books as well as seek wise counsel from mature believers.

(4) Did the message come with the power of God?

Action Step

17. Now it is your turn. Write two questions, one from Romans and one from Hebrews below, regarding principle number 4 of recognizing that the books of the Bible are divinely inspired because they come with the power of God. Then, answer the questions that you have asked.

Regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 1:3–4

Your question and answer from Romans 1:3–4:

Personal Answer

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Your question and answer from Hebrews 4:12:

Personal Answer

(5) Was the message accepted by the people of God?

18. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Why did the apostle Paul thank God continually?

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Paul thanks God continually because when he taught the Thessalonians, they accepted his teaching as the actual word of God.

19. List the Five Principles that guided the recognition and collection of divinely inspired books. Take turns sharing these principles with your discipleship team or with other people you know.

- (1) Was the book written by a prophet or spokesperson of God?**
- (2) Was the writer confirmed by acts of God?**
- (3) Did the message tell the truth about God?**
- (4) Does it come with the power of God?**
- (5) Was it accepted by the people of God?**

20. How has learning the “Five Principles for the Recognition and Collection Divine Scripture” given you confidence in the Holy Scriptures as the reliable Word of God’?

Personal Answer

—End Day Two—

Day Three

The Word of God to Others

21. How were you introduced to the Word of God?

Personal Answer

22. How are you introducing others to the Bible?

Personal Answer

23. How has Brother Andrew’s story encouraged or inspired you?

Personal Answer

24. Read Isaiah 40:8. How long will God’s Word be effective and true?

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever. Isaiah 40:8

Forever

25. Read John 14:26. Why are believers never alone when they are studying God’s Word?

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

The Holy Spirit lives within believers—teaching and reminding them of Jesus’ words.

Action Step

26. Prayerfully choose and study a biblical subject that you would like to know more about. Summarize what you learned.

Personal Answer

—End Day Three—

Day Four
Studying the Bible

Read Matthew 16:6–9 and answer questions 27–28:

“Be careful,” Jesus said to them. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”⁷ They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn’t bring any bread.”⁸ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?”⁹ Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Matthew 16:6–9

27. Did the disciples have enough faith to understand Jesus’ words? Yes No (Underline One)

28. Why did Jesus say their lack of understanding had to do with a lack of faith (vv. 8–9)?

Because they did not remember Jesus’ miracle of feeding the five thousand people with only five loaves of bread. If they had understood who Jesus was and His power, they would not have been thinking about food. Instead, they would have had faith in Jesus to provide and looked for another meaning to what Jesus was saying.

29. Read Matthew 16:11–12. What did Jesus mean when He warned against the “yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees” (v. 12)?

“How is it you don’t understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”¹² Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Matthew 16:11–12

Jesus was referring to the hypocritical teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. They were a legalistic and separatist group who put undue burdens on the people. Yeast is used here as a symbol of evil or corruption. The metaphor includes the idea of a tiny amount of yeast being able to ferment a large amount of dough. Sometimes the yeast metaphor is used in a good way:

30. What is the difference between literal and figurative language?

*Liter*al language is to conform to the exact or primary meaning of a word or words. *Figurative* language refers to all uses of words that are metaphorical or symbolic in nature, conveying a meaning different from their common, literal sense.

31. How will being aware of figurative language help someone better understand the Bible?

Personal answer, but being aware of figurative language in the Bible can aid in grasping deeper meanings and symbolic messages conveyed through metaphors, similes, and allegories, enriching one's comprehension of its teachings and narratives. It will also help one not to make false assumptions about scientific or other kind of errors in the Bible.

32. How has Jesus opened your mind so that you can understand the Scriptures?

Personal answer, but might mention being born again and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

33. How effective can you be as a disciple of Christ if you do not know the truth of Scripture?

Not effective at all.

34. Read Joshua 1:8. Why will *you* study and meditate on the words in the Bible?

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8

Personal Answer

35. Pray: O Father God, please give me a love of Your *Holy Word*. Make me trust it as truth and apply it to my life. Holy Spirit, illuminate Scripture so I may understand it and teach it to others. Lord Jesus, help me to use the Bible in telling others about You. Amen.

—End Day Four—

Day Five

The Bible and History

(1) Bibliographical Test: Examines the textual transmission (communication) of documents.

36. Explain in your own words why the New Testament books are historically reliable by using the bibliographical test.

The New Testament books were the most frequently copied of any ancient manuscripts. Most of the ancient manuscripts survive with only a few copies. The sheer number of our copies makes it possible to reconstruct the original text with accuracy and precision. We know that we have received God's Word in the way He divinely purposed.

37. How does this information about the Dead Sea Scrolls build up your faith in the reliability and trustworthiness of the Scriptures?

Personal answer, but see the following text from the lesson:

When scholars compare the Dead Sea scrolls (for example the Isaiah scroll, 125 BC) with the next oldest known Hebrew text (Isaiah scroll 916 AD) the accuracy is remarkable. There is over a thousand-year period between the two scrolls and yet there is little difference. Plus, the 5 percent differences are simple scribal (copyist) errors, such as variations in spelling, which do not change the meaning of the text.

(2) Internal Evidence Test: Claims the writer himself makes in the document.

38. The Bible is consistent in claiming to record God’s words. True False (Underline One)

of the sun” to convey deeper truths beyond scientific precision.

—End of Answers Day Five and Lesson 12—

Next—Lesson 13: Overcoming Emotional Suffering, Unit 4: Disciple of Christ

Rev 8/6/2024