

God Is Our Teacher

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BIBLE

But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14.26

KEY IMAGE:
BIBLE WITH BEAMS FROM ABOVE

OUR PRIMARY TEACHER: THE HOLY SPIRIT

God reveals Himself in three distinct ways: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. In Old Testament times, the Holy Spirit was available only to special leaders such as certain kings and prophets. But God promised that one day He would send His Spirit to earth, giving everyone access to Him.

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people...

— Joel 2.28

Jesus taught us about the Spirit and the work He would do. He promised that when He left the earth, the Spirit would come to live among us and within us. The Spirit of God can have a powerful effect on each of us if we allow Him to work in our lives:

The Holy Spirit _____ **us.**

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt... — John 16.8

The Holy Spirit _____ **us.**

The Holy Spirit...will teach you all things... — John 14.26

The Holy Spirit _____ **us.**

He will guide you into all truth... — John 16.13

The Holy Spirit _____ **us.**

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...
— Acts 1.8

Just as He promised, God sent the Holy Spirit. In the book of Acts, we can read about this exciting story and see the amazing work of the Spirit!

OUR PRIMARY TEXTBOOK: THE BIBLE

The Bible is a collection of _____ books written by over _____ authors over a period of about 1,500 years. We call it the Word of God because our Heavenly Father speaks to us through the Bible. It tells us everything He wants us to know about His character, His intentions, and His ways.

The Bible was written by people inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is no ordinary book! It is powerful and life-changing. It has authority in our lives because it is from God. Therefore, we must pay careful attention and obey what God teaches us.

In 2 Timothy 3.16-17 we discover the primary purposes of the Bible:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for...

TEACHING It tells us what is _____.

REBUKING It tells us what is _____.

CORRECTING It tells us how to _____.

AND TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS It tells us how to _____.

...so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

OUR PRIMARY TASK: OBEDIENCE

The Holy Spirit and the Bible help us to understand God and His will. But knowledge and understanding are not enough. The Bible teaches us to be “doers” and not just “hearers” (James 1.22). We must _____ what God teaches us!

Obedying God is not an easy task! Because we are human, we get distracted and quickly lose interest. Therefore, we need _____ to one another to continue obeying what the Lord is teaching us.

Whenever we read from God’s Word, we must search for what He is trying to teach us. Then we must be sure to obey. The Holy Spirit teaches us through the Bible so we can obey God and grow in _____ with Him.

God desires that every person has the opportunity to hear His message. Our most important step of obedience is to share the gospel, inviting people into relationship with Him. We must go and make disciples. Remember, a disciple is a disciple maker, so obeying God in this way results in the _____ of the Kingdom!

The measure of a true disciple is obedience to God. Jesus says, “*Whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 5.19). Obedience is our primary task!

TOOLS FOR STUDYING AND OBEYING GOD’S WORD

There are many methods for studying the Bible. Unfortunately, most methods tend to emphasise knowledge without reinforcing obedience to God! The most effective method will emphasise obedience, and it will be simple and easy to learn. The simpler it is, the more likely people will be able to teach others how to study and obey God’s Word.

Today, we will learn a method called *SOS* which you can memorise and use immediately and in the weeks to come. Whenever you are ready to study the Bible, pray and ask God to give you understanding. Then take time to discuss these three very simple questions:

- S** What does it _____?
- O** What must I _____?
- S** With whom can I _____ what I have learned?

THE NEXT SIX MONTHS: THE GOSPEL OF MARK

This is the last of six basic lessons about God and what it means to follow Him as a disciple. You must continue to meet together, following the AIM pattern just as you have been doing:

- keeping one another *accountable* (“love your neighbour as yourself”)
- growing in *intimacy* with God (“love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind”)
- practising skills that *multiply* the Kingdom (“go and make disciples...baptising them...teaching them to obey”)

Starting next week, you will begin studying the life of Jesus in the Gospel According to Mark. Read Mark 1.1–20 this week and be prepared to share what God is teaching you to obey. Look at the Mark studies listing and the SOS Bible Study chart (handouts) in preparation for what you will begin next week. And remember, continue sharing the gospel with people so they can have the opportunity to know Jesus!

In concluding these TFT lessons, take time to study the *Foundational Principles* (handout). These are important guidelines to follow as you train others to be disciple makers.

ASSIGNMENTS

OBEY at least one thing you learned from this lesson:

SHARE your personal story or the Gospel story with at least one person this week.

MEMORIZE the memory verse:
John 14.26

READ from the Bible:
Mark 1.1–20

TRAIN at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained.