

STRONG

STUDENTS

MIDDLE &
HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT BOOK



Bedrock

Foundations of Faith



Bedrock

Over the next thirteen weeks, you will learn about the Bible doctrines that form the foundation of your faith. The course begins with two lessons on the Bible. You will learn that the Bible is inspired by God and reliable for your faith and practice. The Bible forms the bedrock on which to build the doctrine of God, man, sin, salvation, Satan, angels, Israel, the church, and future events. This course will strengthen your faith and confidence in the Bible and all it reveals.



Time with God

Keep a journal as you work through your Time with God each week. A great way to think through passages and gain insights is to ask yourself simple questions. See the list below and sample questions for each one.

- Who?** *Who wrote this passage? To whom was it written?*
- What?** *What is this passage about? What happened to the characters in the passage?*
- When?** *When was this passage written? When did the events in the passage take place?*
- Where?** *Where was this passage written? Where did the events in the passage take place?*
- Why?** *Why was this passage written? Why is it organized as it is?*
- How?** *How should this passage affect its readers? How might I live out this passage?*

As you answer these questions in a journal, you will begin to see what each passage means and how God wants you to use it.



How to Go to Heaven

God has promised you eternal life. You can know for sure you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven (1 John 5:13).

1. You must understand that you are a sinner and God won't let sin into Heaven. God is perfect and could never allow evil to dwell in His presence. You must face the reality that you are a guilty sinner (Rom. 3:23).
2. You can't earn eternal life. You are already guilty, and nothing you do can pay for your sin. Unless God miraculously saves you, you are destined for eternity in Hell. That is a terrifying fact. Thankfully, God has miraculously provided salvation for everyone (Eph. 2:8, 9).
3. God sent His Son to earth to become a man and die to pay for your sins. Jesus Christ remained perfect because He remained the Son of God. When Jesus died on the cross, God the Father accepted His sacrifice to fully pay for your sins. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proved that God had accepted Jesus' death. Jesus can now offer you eternal life (Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:20).
4. Jesus did all the work to secure salvation, but that doesn't make anyone automatically saved. You must accept His payment for your sins by placing your trust in His finished work on the cross. God will not accept anything else. When you place your trust in Jesus, God guarantees you have eternal life (John 5:24).

If you aren't sure you are saved, place your trust in Jesus Christ right now, and you can know for certain you will spend eternity with Him!



THE INSPIRED, INERRANT, INFALLIBLE WORD

Theme: God communicated His exact words through inspiration so the Bible is inerrant and infallible.

I. _____ of Inspiration

A. The Scriptures are _____ (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21)

"Inspiration" is God's superintendence of human authors so that they wrote _____ His revealed words.

B. The Scriptures had _____ (2 Pet. 1:2-4, 20, 21)

God gave the writers the personalities that would _____ exactly the _____ of writing He wanted in the parts of Scripture that they wrote.

The completed Word of God is God's _____ message to humanity rather than _____ of knowledge.

II. _____ of Inspiration

A. The _____ are inspired (Matt. 5:18; 1 Cor. 2:12, 13)

Inspiration applies to the autographs of the Bible. The term "autographs" refers to the _____ of the Bible books.

We can speak of our Bible today as being inspired because it is an _____ representation of the inspired original.

B. The _____ are inspired (Deut. 30:15, 16; Matt. 5:17, 18; Gal. 3:16)

The individual words of Scripture are inspired, not just the _____ or _____ that lie behind the words.

III. _____ of Inspiration

A. Scriptures are _____ (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16; Titus 1:2)

Biblical inerrancy means the Bible is _____ from _____ and that it speaks the _____ whether it addresses doctrine, ethics, or history.

B. Scriptures are _____ (2 Tim. 3:16)

It was impossible for the writers to record an _____ of any kind as they penned the Scriptures because they were under the _____ guidance.



Time with God

Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

MONDAY

Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

The Scriptures are inspired, or God-breathed. For what are they profitable?

How has God's Word prepared you to do good works?

THURSDAY

1 Corinthians 2:12, 13.

All of Paul's original autographs were inspired, as were the original autographs of the rest of the Bible. What happened to all the original writings?

What characterized the process of making copies of the original autographs? Were the scribes careless and haphazard?

TUESDAY

Read 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

What part did the writers play in the creation of the Word of God?

What would you expect to find in the Bible if it were merely a compilation of human ideas over the course of about 1,500 years?

FRIDAY

Read Matthew 5:17, 18; 1 Peter 1:25.

What promise did Jesus make concerning the Scriptures?

What would you say to someone who believes the Bible can't be trusted?

WEDNESDAY

Read 2 Peter 1:2–4.

What might you wish was included in the Bible?

What does the Bible's message reveal about what is most important in life?

SATURDAY

Read John 17:17; Titus 1:2.

Why couldn't the original autographs have any errors?

How will you respond to having God's reliable and accurate Word about life and godliness?

Tough Questions Answered



Does imprecise language mean the Bible isn't inerrant?



Some theologians argue that the Bible can't be inerrant because it contains imprecise language. They demand the Bible must be exact in all that it reports and describes in order for it to be called inerrant without any qualifications. For example, they would list round numbers, non-scientific descriptions (e.g., saying the sun rises and sets), symbolic language, and generalizations (e.g., using "all" instead of "almost all") as qualifications to inerrancy of Scripture.

Biblical inerrancy doesn't demand that the Bible be as precise and accurate as possible in all that it reports and claims. We all use imprecise language as part of our normal speech. Such language is not considered a lie in any context. Telling someone you are sixteen years old when you are actually sixteen years and three days old is not a lie. Likewise, saying the sun rose in the morning is accurate in that the sun appears from an earthly perspective to rise and travel across the sky.

Inerrancy allows for imprecision and generalization. When the Bible doesn't claim to be precise, we should accept the imprecision or generalization as part of God's inerrant Word.

The Bible uses precise language when revealing doctrines such as God's nature, sin's seriousness, and the plan of salvation. For example, Jesus taught with precise language when He said He is the way, the truth, and the life. There is no other way to be saved. No one can come to the Father except through faith in Christ (John 14:6). Anyone who dismisses Christ's precise language because other passages say the sun rises and sets is a fool.

The Bible never puts a demand on itself to use precise language in every subject it covers. Those who put a demand on the Bible it doesn't put on itself are creating an excuse for dismissing the Bible altogether.

Biblical inerrancy doesn't demand that the Bible be as precise and accurate as possible in all that it reports and claims.

The Leaning Baptistry of Pisa



The church bell tower in the background of the picture, known as the Tower of Pisa, was built on an unstable foundation. The building process began in AD 1173 and finished in the late fourteenth century. The tower famously leans to one side today because of the unstable foundation. The less famous Catholic church and baptistry seen in the photo also lean to one side, though not as drastically as the tower does. The baptistry is the largest in Italy. In that baptistry numerous people from the Catholic church received false hope of salvation based on false doctrine. The leaning baptistry of Pisa is essentially a monument to the fact one's beliefs are only as good as the foundation on which they are built. One's doctrine must be built on the Word of God alone.



Memory Verse Review



Memory Verse—2 Timothy 3:16

"Inspiration" is God's superintendence of human authors so that they wrote without error His revealed words. Inspiration applies only to the original autographs. Yet, our Bibles are reliable because of the measures taken to make copies of the original autographs. The inspired Word of God profits us by revealing what God says is true, what is wrong with our lives, how to change our lives, and how to live consistently for Christ.

1. What is your attitude toward God's inspired Word?
2. How have you seen God's inspired Word affect your life?
3. Express your appreciation for God's powerful, inspired Word.

Measuring Growth



"Inspiration" means "God-breathed." The Spirit superintended human authors so that they wrote without error God's revealed words. Inspiration applies to the writers' original autographs, making them inerrant and infallible. God used careful copyists over the centuries to preserve His Word. Our Bibles today are reliable and accurate.

Look for the following indicators that you trust God's Word is inspired, inerrant, and infallible.

1. I regularly read and study God's Word.
2. I recognize the important place of God's Word in my life.
3. I memorize and share God's Word.

Additional Memory Verses—John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.